

Face to Face with Jesus

Pt. 4 - Matthew

Mk. 2:13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. ¹⁵While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

Lessons from the story of Matthew:

Reaching out often results in criticism.

Mk. 2:16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

Jesus' agenda puts lost people first.

Mk. 2:17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus knew Matthew completely, but loved him anyway.

Loves sees a person honestly.

Love sees a person's potential.

Principle: Genuine love generates genuine submission.

Where legalism fails, love prevails.

Rom. 2:4 ...do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

The Matthew model for bringing people to Jesus:

1. Make friends with Jesus.
2. Make friends with unbelievers.
3. Introduce my friends to each other.

Mt. 9:13 I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners. (NLT)

Core Value: Every Soul Matters to God.