

## A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 9 v. 9-13

- **After the healing of the paralytic, Jesus goes on and calls Matthew to follow Him. (v. 9)**
  - Why would it be noteworthy to mention that Matthew was a Tax Collector? \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9)
    - Tax Collectors were the scorn of many Jews. They were disliked for many reasons; big ones being working for the Roman Government and often over-charging people on their taxes for their own gain. (Luke 3:12-13)
  - What do Tax Collectors, Fishermen, and Zealots have in common? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Despite having very few common interests and lifestyles, Jesus is able to bring unity to and use people from many different backgrounds. This shows us that not only is God able to use ANYONE that will follow him, but His love and mercy is available to EVERYONE!
- **Not only does Jesus choose a tax collector to follow Him, but he also goes on to have dinner with tax collectors and sinners to the disdain of the Pharisees (v. 10-11)**
  - Why would Jesus take the time to fellowship with people that were known sinners?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 10)
    - Read John 3:16-17. What is Jesus's purpose on Earth? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Though Jesus is hanging out with sinners, is he falling into their ways? \_\_\_\_\_
    - It is important to recognize that Jesus takes the time to minister to people who need to hear the Word, but he also does not allow Himself to approve of their lifestyle or fall into their ways. In the same way, as believers, we must make sure that we are ministering to the lost, but not putting ourselves at risk of falling into sin while doing so.
  - What response do the Pharisees have toward Jesus when they see him dining with these men?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11)
    - This is one of many times were the Pharisees end up being hypocritical with their own words/thoughts. Read Matthew 11:16-19.
    - The Pharisees here talk down to Jesus because he spent time with sinners, but then spoke ill of John the Baptist because he did not.
    - Is this an issue that we can see in our lives and within our Church?  
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- **Upon hearing the questions from the Pharisees, Jesus addresses their complaint. (v. 12-13).**
  - Why do people go to see doctors? \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12)
    - The purpose of seeing a doctor or a physician is to become healthy again. Jesus takes time to minister to these men because without them being reached, they will remain spiritually ill.
    - What is the consequence if we allow ourselves or others to be spiritually ill?  
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    - Just as it is foolish for a sick person to not seek help from a doctor, it is foolish for us as believers to not seek after Christ and to not help others who are destined for an eternity apart from Him. (Romans 6:23)
  - When Jesus rebukes the Pharisees here, He actually quotes scripture from Hosea 6:6. (v. 13)
    - Jesus tells the Pharisees that they need to LEARN what that passage is saying. As men that studied God’s word they could almost certainly identify the passage, but despite knowing the Word they did not understand it.
    - The word for compassion in this passage is “eleos” which translates to “acts of compassion or righteousness”. Though on the surface this would call for people to have compassion, what Jesus desires is for this compassion to be put into action!
    - Can we fall into the same trap that the Pharisees had fallen into? \_\_\_\_\_
    - The Pharisees and Jewish leaders KNEW that these people were sinners, but they weren’t working to help them. They had fallen into a heartless religion instead of a heart-felt religion.
  - Notice Jesus says he did not come to call the righteous, but the sinners. What type of “righteous” person is he talking about here? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Jesus is not saying he doesn’t care about those who have already followed him, but instead those who are “self-righteous” and don’t realize they need him in the first place.
    - Just as a doctor cannot help someone that won’t come in for treatment, Jesus can’t help those who don’t seek after him. Self-righteous people don’t know they are lost, but repentant sinners will find Christ if they seek after Him.