



LIVE LIKE JESUS

Matthew 9:9 – 13

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰ Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹ But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" ¹² When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." ¹³ Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Discussion Questions:

- How can you extend fellowship with God to someone in your life in need of grace?
- What kind of people joined Jesus and His new follower for dinner? ([9:10](#))
- What did the Pharisees think of Jesus' attendance at Matthew's social function? ([9:11](#))
- Who reported the Pharisees' comments to Jesus? ([9:12](#))
- What did Jesus tell His listeners they needed to learn? ([9:13](#))
- What did Jesus say He had come to earth to do? ([9:13](#))
- How do you think you might react if several gang members or street people attended your church this Sunday?
- What do you think people would say if you associated with a "wild crowd" in order to be a witness for Christ?
- What will happen if we never reach out to those outside the church?
- What surprises you about Jesus' actions in this passage?
- What individuals need your encouragement and support as they seek to minister to those who don't know Christ?
- How can you cultivate a relationship with a non-Christian friend?
- What can you do to remind yourself to view others as they can be, instead of seeing only their faults

When Jesus called Levi to be his follower, he called a corrupt Jewish official in the service of King Herod. Levi was detested and regarded as an outcast from society. He was part of a social class that was considered unclean because they showed no interest in regulating their conduct by Pharisaic standards. Every country hates its tax-gatherers, but the hatred of the Jews for them was doubly violent. The Jews were fanatical nationalists. But what roused the Jews more than anything else was their religious conviction that God alone was king, and that to pay taxes to any mortal ruler was an infringement of God's rights and an insult to his majesty. By Jewish law a tax-gatherer was debarred from the synagogue; he was included with things and beasts unclean. He was forbidden to be a witness in any case, "robbers, murderers and tax-gatherers" were classed together. When Jesus called Matthew he called a man whom all men hated. Here is one of the greatest instances in the New Testament of Jesus' power to see in a man, not only what he was, but also what he could be. No one ever had such faith in the possibilities of human nature as Jesus had. When Jesus, the Messiah, broke bread with outcasts, he extended to them fellowship with God. Sitting at their table and sharing a meal became a dramatic expression of God's grace. Jesus did what the Pharisees and the teachers of the law would never do. He entered a home that was considered morally unclean and he broke bread with law-breaking sinners.