

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 7/23/23 Dwight Gehman

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BIBLE PASSAGE - Matthew 9:1-13

1 "And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. *2* And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." *3* And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." *4* But Jesus, knowing^{1a} their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? *5* For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? *6* But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." *7* And he rose and went home. *8* When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

10 And as Jesus^{1b} reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. *11* And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" *12* But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. *13* Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Other Passages: Romans 3:21-24, Col. 1:15-20, Ex. 34:6-7, Matt. 11:29

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

Dive into God's Word. Use these discussion questions. Learn from each other's insight.

1. How do you view who Jesus is? What preconceived ideas do you hold of Jesus you need to shed so you can see him accurately?
2. Spend time reading the following passages on who the Bible says Jesus is, what new insights stand out? Col. 1:15-20, Ex. 34:6-7, Matt. 11:29
3. How do you view others? Who is your personal "tax collector"
4. How do you view yourself?
5. What might you all need to embrace or let go of as a group to "*get used to different.*"

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS