

The Gospel of Matthew

“Jesus – Friend of Sinners”

Matthew 9:9-17

Friend of Sinners

Matthew 9:9-10

And 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 arose, and followed Him.

And it happened that as He was reclining in the house, behold many tax-gatherers and sinners came and reclined with Jesus and His disciples.

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Call of Matthew

➤ *illustration of Jesus’ call*

- as a tax-gatherer, Matthew represents a wider group of “sinners” (undesirables)
- Matthew’s response indicated a thorough-going trust in Jesus

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Matthew 9:11-13

And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, “Why is your teacher eating with the tax-gatherers and sinners?”

But when He heard this, He said, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.

But go and learn what this means, ‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

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1. Jesus Calls “Sinners”

a) *Messiah’s “unexpected” mission*

- His mission was characterized by grace, by the pursuit of the lost (“the undesirables”)
- He saw “sinners” as needy not as despised and contaminated

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1. Jesus Calls “Sinners”

b) *Jesus’ indictment of “the righteous”*

- those who are outwardly righteous but lack mercy are opposed to God
- those who exclude themselves from the list of “sinners” have no part in Messiah

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Matthew 9:14-17

Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but You disciples do not fast?"

And Jesus said to them, "The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn as long the bridegroom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."

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Matthew 9:14-17

But no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear results.

Nor do men put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.

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2. Jesus Brings "New Wine"

- *the coming of Jesus brings "newness"*
 - He is the messianic bridegroom in whom the messianic age has dawned
 - the newness Jesus brings cannot be contained in the old structures of Judaism

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Application

1. Jesus offers immense hope to sinners – none are too vile for His mercy
2. We must follow Jesus in showing mercy toward "sinners"