

Continuing Jesus' Mission

"I Came to Call Sinners"
Matthew 9:9-13


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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.

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."



Jesus Calls Sinners

1. Example of Matthew


- ❖ *illustrates the kind of person Jesus calls*
 - as a tax-collector, Matthew represents a wider group of "sinners" (undesirables)
 - Matthew's response indicated a thorough-going trust in and submission to Jesus



Jesus Calls Sinners

2. Jesus' unexpected mission


- ❖ *"I came to call sinners"*
 - His mission was characterized by grace, by the pursuit of the lost (undesirables)
 - He saw sinners as needy not as despised and contaminated



Jesus Calls Sinners

3. Jesus' indictment of "the righteous"

- ❖ *"I did not come to call the righteous"*
 - righteousness that puts ritual before mercy is not the righteousness of the kingdom
 - those who exclude themselves from the category of "sinners" have no part in Messiah's call



Jesus Calls Sinners

Application

- ❖ We are to continue Jesus' mission by showing compassion toward "sinners" and calling them to follow Him



Jesus Calls Sinners

Application

1. Does our attitude toward the lost reflect that of Jesus or that of the Pharisees?
2. What is our present engagement with unbelievers?
what is the purpose of these engagements?