

# FEASTING WITH THE FRIEND OF SINNERS

*Matthew 9:9-17*

I. Christ's dinner *companions* signal a fundamental clash with Pharisaic religion (vv. 9-13).

II. Christ's dinner *customs* signal a fundamental clash with Pharisaic religion (vv. 14-17).

## QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is the table a symbol of in the Bible? Is food an end in itself?
2. What did Matthew do for a living before he was called by Jesus? Why is it so shocking that Christ would call him?
3. What is the first thing Matthew does after rising up to follow Jesus? Why were the Pharisees critical of this? How did Jesus respond?
4. What is the single qualification necessary to be a disciple of Jesus?
5. What is fasting? Why didn't Jesus and His disciples give themselves to the twice-a-week fast of the religious leaders?
6. Should Christians fast today? If so, why and how?
7. How is feasting at a table central to the Christian religion and the Christian hope?

## QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Do I know myself to be a great sinner in need of a great Savior?
2. Am I drawing encouragement from the fact that if Jesus could use a vile man like Matthew in such a mighty way, Christ could use me too?
3. What is the relationship between feasting with Christ and fasting with Christ in between Christ's first and second coming? Do I practice fasting, and is my fasting unto feasting?