



Matthew 9:9-13

Jesus Calls Sinners, Not the Righteous

by Eric Douma

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Jesus Personally Calls Matthew

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "**Follow Me!**" And he got up and followed Him.

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The Pharisees' Oblivious Question

Matthew 9:10-11

Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining *at the table in the house*, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to His disciples, "**Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?**"

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Jesus' Poignant Reply

Matthew 9:12-13

But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "*It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.* 13 "But go and learn what this means: '**I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,**' *for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*"

Matthew 5:20

For I say to you that **unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

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Applications

1. We should understand the personal and objective nature of the apostle's calling.
2. We should understand the ironic reversal of salvation and judgment that occurs at dinners in the Bible.
3. We must recognize our personal need to be washed clean from our sins by Christ.

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The Objective Calling of the Apostles

Matthew 4:21

Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and **He called them.**

Romans 1:1

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, **called as an apostle**, set apart for the gospel of God...

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The Ironic Reversals at Dinners in the Bible

1. Genesis 19 = Lot saved/Sodom judged
2. Genesis 21 = Isaac stays/Ishmael sent away
3. Genesis 40 = Cupbearer elevated/baker hung
4. 1 Sam. 25 = Abigail married/Nabal killed
5. Esther 7 = Mordecai elevated/Haman hung
6. Matt. 9 = Sinners saved/Pharisees hardened
7. Rev. 19 = Saints have dinner/Lost are dinner
(Isaiah 5:12-17 + Isaiah 25:6-9 = Predict the future eschatological banquet)

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We Must Recognize Our Need

Luke 18:11-13

The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

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We Must Recognize Our Need

John 13:8

Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

1 John 1:8-10

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

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The Remedy

Romans 3:23-25a

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.

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