

Sunday, March 13

Mathew 9

Who is Matthew? - Jew

- Tax Collector
 - Eventual disciple, apostle and gospel writer
- What were taxes like in Rome?

Mathew 9:9

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

FOLLOW ME

Our response to the call

Mathew 9:10-11

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

What does it mean to have dinner? With sinners?

Mathew 9:12-13

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick

This story is right in between stories of actually sick people. Who are the healthy? The sick?

Pharisees should know better

How do I spend my time?

Church this might be a bit of a wakeup call, but church isn't a country club, it's a hospital.

Jesus's mission being our mission

It's so snide. He tells them "go learn what this means: I desire mercy not sacrifice."

1 Samuel 15:22

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

Hosea 6

The Lord is giving an indictment of the people of Israel. He says "your love is like the morning dew, like the morning mist, it's there one minute, and the next it's gone away."

Hosea 6:6

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

The word mercy is actually hesed. Better translated as steadfast love.

Psalm 51:16-17

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

David knew that the Lord's end goal isn't religious observance, its relational obedience.

Our own focus on "sacrifice".

What were sacrifices originally for?

Expectations we put on people before they come to Jesus

Jesus' extreme humility and self-sacrifice. No one he wouldn't spend time with.

Self - examine. Are we like that?

We have to be better as a church. Hospital can't just be full of healthy people.

Practical tips:

- Invite someone new for your family to dinner
- Mow your neighbor's yard while you're out doing yours
- Buy the person behind you's coffee at the coffee shop.
- Be quick to lend help; whether it's you or your stuff
- Next time you walk past a person who is homeless, stop and talk to them

"Follow me" will take you out of your comfort zone. Are you ready?