

**Matthew 9 “Dinner Parties and New Wine”**  
**Matthew 9:9-17**  
**January 29, 2023**

Matthew 9:9-17

**9** 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 rose and followed him.

**10** And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. **11** And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” **12** But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **13** Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**14** Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” **15** And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. **16** No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. **17** Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

Matthew is easily the most hated man in society.

Psalm 1:1

**1** Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

Who is reading the Bible rightly, the Pharisees or Jesus?

Good doctors get close.

Matthew 9:13

**13** Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

The true work of God gets expressed through God’s people engaging.

The shift - what I am giving up to who am I going to.

*Does our care for someone condone bad behavior?*

The caution is that you can pursue goodness and miss God.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Who in our culture could be a present day “tax collector?”
- Why are the Pharisees shocked by Jesus’ new friends?
- Can you describe the tension between extending care and condoning bad behavior?
- When do you decide not to associate with someone and when do you build a relationship with them?
- Jesus gives the image of a doctor caring for the sick. What principle is Jesus expressing about Himself? About the you?
- “I desire mercy not sacrifice.” Why is sacrifice easier than mercy? How do we use our sacrifices as way of making God owe us?
- How does the gospel burst the old categories of good and bad people?
- To be “sick” or a sinner, what can you believe about God through this passage?