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| **Jesus Calls A Tax Collector**  *Promise: Jesus desires to show mercy in your life* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Ez 2:8—3:11; Ps 119:33-40; Ephesians 4:7-16; Matthew 9:9-13 (St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist), 9/21/25  *“Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”* – v. 13  **Lead In –** ‘Guilt by association’ is something we are very familiar with today. In our increasingly polarized culture, many are choosing to have little or nothing to do with those of contrary viewpoints, persuasions, and affiliations. It is as if we are afraid of being contaminated, or fear if we are seen with the wrong people, let alone agree with anything they say, we will be painted as being fully in league with them. There is nothing new in all this. In fact, the pious Jews of Jesus’ day would not have been caught dead in the house and at the table with tax collectors and others they considered disreputable riffraff. So, imagine the shock in the day that Jesus often rubbed shoulders with “tax collectors and sinners”!   1. **Jesus Calls a Disreputable Tax Collector**    1. The tax collectors were despised for a good reason…    2. Matthew rose from his tax booth and followed Jesus…    3. And then Matthew hosts Jesus with his associates… 2. **The Risk of the Sin Contagion**    1. Bad company and peer pressure is a valid concern…    2. Imagine a doctor who refuses to tend the sick…    3. Jesus came among us in mercy to heal us… 3. **The Physician’s Death Becomes the Healing Sacrifice**    1. Jesus bears the contagion of sin on the cross…    2. His sacrifice mercifully brings healing and wholeness…    3. The heart of a true sacrifice is God’s mercy…   **Final Word –** Follow me, Jesus spoke to Matthew. And Matthew rose from his tax booth and he began to follow Jesus. This despised tax collector had an advantage over the pious Pharisees. He recognized the dreaded disease of his heart and soul. Many of the Pharisees did not. Matthew would learn further of Jesus’ mercy, having first been a recipient of this mercy himself. Matthew would show this mercy to others, as do all of Christ’s true disciples. And how about you this morning? Do you recognize the contagion of sin in your heart? Have you entrusted yourself to the Physician and His mercy? Are you following Him and learning of His mercy as you share it with others? That is a true sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving! Amen.  **Mk 10:21** And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”  **Mk 10:**22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.  **Mk 1:17-18** And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him.  **Lk 5:29** And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. | **Matthew 9:9-13 ESV**  *Jesus Calls Matthew*  9As 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.  10And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”  **Ps 1:1-2** 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; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.  **Ro 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  **Lk 19:10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.  **2Co 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.  **1Pe 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.  **Ro 5:19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.  **Is 64:6** We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  **Ro 12:1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. |

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