

# The Physician for the Sin-Sick

*Promise: Jesus heals the disease of sin and death*

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Hosea 5:15-6:6; Ps 119:65-72; Rom 4:13-25; [Matthew 9:9-13](#)

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*But when [Jesus] heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." – Mt 9:13*

**Lead In** – This morning's Gospel Lesson is all about the tax collector, Matthew, being called to be disciple of Jesus. There is an interesting portrayal of Matthew in the miniseries *The Chosen*. Some of you may have seen it. This portrayal is of a person with Autism or Asperger's Syndrome and with a variety of tics and anxieties. Such a person would account for a very good memory and attentive to minute details that indeed Matthew the Gospel writer demonstrates. In any event, we learn a lot about God's mercy in the account of Matthew's calling. It is worth taking a careful look at the lesson...

## I. Matthew's Immediate Response to Jesus' Call

- A. Who were the tax collectors mentioned in the Bible?
- B. Regarded as greedy, dishonest, and traitors...
- C. More than considered, or desired, he responds fully...

## II. Jesus Eats with Tax Collectors and Sinners

- A. We may or may not understand Pharisees reaction...
- B. The very meaning of the name 'Pharisee'...
- C. "In" but not "of" the world, and a guiding principle...

## III. Getting It Half Right, And the Lesser Half at That!

- A. Indeed, we are to lead holy, God-pleasing lives...
- B. Indeed, we should study hard to know Scripture...
- C. Indeed, we should have a passion for God's will...

**Parting Shot** – Can you hear the tone of voice in verse 13? The words had to sting! **"Go and learn what this means..."** The Pharisees were the professors, the professional educators, and administrators of the day. But they missed the dominant theme and passed over verses such as Hosea 6:6 and Ezekiel 18:23. The Lord has been in the 'saving business' since our first parents took the fatal bite in Garden of Eden. And the sooner we learn that we are all sin-sick with a fatal disease, the sooner we will rejoice in the Physician who can heal the disease, and that He associates with sinners like us, takes our sins, and then atones for them by His death...

**Tax Collectors** – Romans (and local rulers such as Herod Antipas) awarded the right to collect taxes to the highest bidder, allowing local tax gatherers to levy a surcharge on the taxes they collected. They were notorious for being dishonest and traitorous.

**Lk 18:13** But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

**Φαρισαῖος** (Pharisaïos) – a separatist, a purist. 'Pharisee' is derived from the Aramaic term *peras* meaning 'to divide and separate'.

**Lk 7:39** Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he

# Matthew 9:9-13 ESV

*Jesus Calls Matthew*

<sup>9</sup> 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.

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

said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

**1Co 5:9-11** I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— <sup>10</sup> not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. <sup>11</sup> But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

**Jn 17:15-17** I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

**Principle:** If you are able to be with people while retaining your witness and not be adversely tempted and susceptible to give in, then go ahead and be 'in but not of the world'.

**1Pe 1:15-16** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

**Ho 6:6** For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

**Ez 18:23** Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?