

Matthew 9:9-13

Jesus Calls Matthew



Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 9:9	Jesus sees Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth and calls him, saying, 'Follow me.' Matthew gets up and follows him.	Tax collector (telōnēs) – despised for collaborating with Rome; Follow (akoloutheo) – continuous action of discipleship.	Jesus calls the unlikely. No past disqualifies someone from following Him.	Be ready to leave anything behind when Jesus calls; no one is beyond His reach.
Matthew 9:10	Jesus eats at Matthew's house with many tax collectors and sinners who come and eat with him and his disciples.	Sinners (hamartōlos) – those living outside religious norms; Table fellowship – symbol of acceptance and relationship.	Jesus welcomes outcasts and shares life with them, showing God's heart for the marginalized.	Practice radical hospitality. Build relationships that reflect Christ's inclusive love.
Matthew 9:11	Pharisees ask Jesus' disciples why their teacher eats with tax collectors and sinners.	Pharisees – strict religious leaders; Eats with – sign of friendship and shared identity.	Religious pride resists grace, questioning God's mercy toward the unworthy.	Guard against self-righteousness. Celebrate when grace reaches others.
Matthew 9:12	On hearing this, Jesus says, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.'	Doctor (iatros) – healer; Sick (kakōs echō) – spiritually and morally ill.	Jesus is the Great Physician, coming for those who know they need healing.	Acknowledge your need for Jesus. Share His healing love with the hurting.
Matthew 9:13	Jesus tells them, 'Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'	Mercy (eleos) – steadfast compassion; Sacrifice (thusia) – ritual offering; Call (kaleō) – to invite, summon.	Quoting Hosea 6:6, Jesus teaches that God values mercy over ritual. His mission is to call sinners to repentance.	Show mercy over mere ritual. Join Jesus in reaching those far from God.

Cross References

Matthew 9:9

Jesus calls Matthew from the tax booth to follow Him.

- **Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27–28** – Parallel accounts of Matthew/Levi’s call.
- **John 1:43** – Jesus calls Philip, “Follow me.”
- **1 Corinthians 1:26–29** – God calls the unlikely to confound the wise.
- **Luke 19:1–10** – Jesus calls Zacchaeus, another tax collector.

Theme: No past disqualifies a person from Jesus’ call.

Matthew 9:10

Jesus dines with tax collectors and sinners.

- **Mark 2:15; Luke 5:29** – Parallels of the feast at Matthew’s house.
- **Revelation 3:20** – Jesus stands at the door and knocks to share a meal.
- **Luke 15:1–2** – Jesus receives sinners and eats with them.

Theme: Table fellowship demonstrates God’s welcome to the outcast.

Matthew 9:11

Pharisees question why Jesus eats with sinners.

- **Mark 2:16; Luke 5:30** – Parallel challenges from the Pharisees.
- **Luke 7:34** – Jesus called a “friend of tax collectors and sinners.”
- **Isaiah 65:5** – People who say, “Keep away; I’m too holy for you!”

Theme: Self-righteousness resists grace.

Matthew 9:12

Jesus answers: The sick need a doctor.

- **Mark 2:17; Luke 5:31** – Parallel sayings.
- **Isaiah 1:5–6** – Israel pictured as sick and in need of healing.
- **1 Peter 2:24** – By Jesus’ wounds we are healed.

Theme: Jesus is the Great Physician for spiritual and moral illness.

Matthew 9:13

“I desire mercy, not sacrifice... I came to call sinners.”

- **Hosea 6:6** – God desires steadfast love (mercy) rather than sacrifice.
- **Micah 6:6–8** – God requires justice, mercy, and humility over ritual.
- **1 Timothy 1:15** – Christ came to save sinners.

Theme: God values compassionate love over mere religious ritual; Jesus’ mission is to call sinners to repentance.