



Matthew's Story—As Told By Matthew!

A "professional sinner" abruptly changes occupations.

Matthew 9:9, NIV

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

Even A Tax Collector Has Friends!

Transformed Matthew now decides to throw a big party—a party with a purpose!

Luke 5:29 & Matthew 9:10, NIV

[Matthew] held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.

A Hypercritical Audience

Some rules-oriented religious people notice what's going on over at Matthew's house. They don't like what they see!

Matthew 9:11, NIV & MSG

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and riffraff?"

"Table Fellowship"

Meals are social occasions. Who's around the table is more important than what's on the table!

Matthew 11:19, NIV

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

"Table Fellowship"

Eating together is a bonding experience. To share a meal is to share a life!

Revelation 3:20, NLT

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

“Table Fellowship”

**Sitting down to eat with others
is a biblical picture of heaven!**

Luke 13:29, NIV

People will come from east and west and north and south,
and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

Revelation 19:9, NIV

Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper
of the Lamb!

“Table Fellowship”

Pharisees

Jesus

Judgmental

Welcoming

Look down on sinners

Looks for sinners

Some “wretches” beyond saving

No one is irredeemable

Contact brings contamination

Meals with a mission

“Dr. Jesus” Answers The Criticism

**Since the gospel is life-saving medicine,
mercifully caring for the sin-sick must be a priority.**

Matthew 9:12-13, NLT

When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a
doctor—sick people do.” Then he added, “Now go and learn
the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not
offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think
they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

Life Application

- Sometime this summer, throw a “Matthew party”!
Say to some neighbors...

“Let’s Eat Together!”

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Say to some neighbors...

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- During the month of June, invest an hour in the
Go Together Prayer Room.

Pray for yourself and other Christians in our ally Gurnee churches as we all intentionally plan to reach out to our neighbors!






