

Mt.9.9-17 “Receiving Sinners”
Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #119
March 21, 2021

God’s receiving the sinner & refusing the righteous is central to the Christian faith. The Gospel is not for good people but for bad people who know they are bad & who come to God for **forgiveness** & cleansing.

As the forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist prepared the people for the Messiah by preaching **repentance** from sin, & as they confessed their sins, he baptized them as a **symbol** of God’s cleansing (3:2, 6, 11).

The object of men’s repentance is God’s forgiveness, & that is the dual theme of the Gospel—men must turn from sin in order for God to ...

- ❖ ... forgive,
- ❖ ... cleanse, &
- ❖ ... save them.

It gives the divine **perspective** on His ministry & the basic **rationale** of the incarnation.

It is among the most important statements ever recorded in the Bible: *“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners”* (v.13b).

That truth;

✚ gives the **essence** of the Gospel & the purpose for the incarnation.

Had Jesus come to save the righteous, His incarnation would have been **pointless**.

Conversion, then, occurs in one who is willing to accept the **death** sentence & also the **acquittal** of God.

The man who does not recognize his condemnation to death has no hope for new life.

I. THE **UNRIGHTEOUS ACCEPTED** vv.9-10 (THE POSITIVE RESPONSE)

It may be that the Lord renamed Levi as **Matthew** (which means, **gift of Jehovah/Yahweh**)

Matthew’s first loyalty had to be to **Rome**.

Most Jews believed that the only proper government over them was a **theocracy**—the rule of God.

Matthew was ranked with the **unclean** animals.

Although we are given no details of any words Matthew may have uttered in reply to Jesus’ call, it seems evident from the context that he had been under deep conviction of **sin** and spiritual **need**.

When a person is **truly** converted, he cannot leave his old life fast enough.

Far from being depressed about what he left behind, his heart overflowed with **joy**.

- ✚ He lost a career but gained a **destiny**,
- ✚ lost his material possessions but gained a spiritual **fortune**,
- ✚ lost his temporal security but gained eternal **life**.

Matthew’s response to Jesus’ call was **immediate** & positive;

Matthew’s sincerity was evidenced by his eagerness to share his new faith & his new Master.

Jesus was willing to associate with them.