

Mt.9.9-17 “Receiving Sinners”
March 28, 2021

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**. Because of Jesus' considerable teaching & miracle working in the region around Capernaum, Matthew

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

CONCLUSION:

Matthew's response to Jesus' call was **immediate** & positive,

II. THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS REJECTED v.11 THE NEGATIVE RESPONSE

As with their many other questions to/and about Jesus, their motive was not to learn the **truth** but ... They could see no **defects** in themselves & no **good** in those who were not like them.

The **Pharisees** did not think they **needed** God's forgiveness & were certain that **tax-gatherers and sinners** did not **deserve** it.

Their “ministry” was

- ✓ not to **help** but to judge,
- ✓ not to **restore** but to condemn.
- ✓

III. THE ARGUMENTS vv.12–13

He gave three arguments in defense of His Gospel on the case for **forgiveness** & **reconciliation**.

1.) THE CASE OF LOGIC

- Just as a **physician** is expected to go among people who are **sick**,
- a forgiver should be expected to go among those who are **sinful**.

... proved themselves to be without the **compassion** & **mercy** that God's law required—

2.) THE CASE FROM SCRIPTURE

But when offered insincerely & in a spirit of self-**righteousness** & self-**satisfaction**, they became instead an abomination.

Those who are furthest from giving mercy are furthest from receiving it (6.15; 18.23–35).

3.) THE CASE FROM HIS OWN AUTHORITY

He rejects Jesus' **call** to **salvation** because he rejects the idea of his lostness.

➤ God is

- ✓ overjoyed with a **humble** sinner who repents &
- ✓ is grieved by the self-**righteous** person

- + because they **would** not **identify** themselves with fellow **sinners**,
- + they **could** not be **identified** with Christ, Logic,
- + Scripture, &
- + Jesus Himself ...

... together affirm that;

- forgiveness is for the **sinful** &
- salvation is for the **lost**.

