

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Pray the Lord's Prayer together or individually to begin the time (Mtt 6:9-13).

Share with the Group

Have you ever had a boss who made questionable hiring decisions? Or, have you been in the position of making hires and had them questioned by others? Share your experiences with the group. What was it like?

Read Matthew 9:9-13

What stands out to you in this passage?

What is most surprising to you: That Jesus identifies with sinful people? That Matthew throws a party? Or, that the religious leaders are upset? Explain.

Matthew had likely heard of Jesus, or even heard Jesus teach publicly in Capernaum. Given what Jesus had taught in the Sermon on the Mount (Mtt 5-7) how do you think Matthew would expect Jesus to interact with him?

What does Matthew's response reveal about his heart?

What does Matthew's inclusion among the disciples communicate to the other disciples? To the religious elite? To other "sinners"?

What does it communicate to our world when notorious sinners join the community of the Church, are transformed by Jesus, and are welcomed into leadership?

After following Jesus Matthew uses his big house and ample resources to throw a big party where he welcomes his other sinful friends to meet Jesus.

What does this teach us about the role of celebration?

What does this teach us about evangelism?

What resources has God given you to use evangelistically?

Focus in on vs 12-13. What is Jesus saying here? What does it mean?

What Old Testament verse is he quoting from? Why does he quote it?

What would it look like to apply this in our own lives? Be specific.

Focus on vs 15-17. Why is Jesus contrasting old and new? What's his point?

What is the old and what is the new in this situation?

What old things in your life are incompatible with the New Wine of

Jesus? What is Jesus asking you to leave behind? How will you respond?

Close in Prayer

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