

Not a Fan—Open Invitation

Study Questions

Matthew 9:9-13

Warm-up

1) Describe a situation where you felt that you didn't really fit in.

A little deeper

2) [Matthew 9:9] Jesus called a traitorous tax collector to follow Him as a disciple—a position most rabbis would have expected people to apply for, after years of preparation and upstanding living. Rabbis were selective because the actions of their disciples would impact their own reputations. But Jesus wasn't concerned about all that. **Why does Jesus invite just anyone to become a disciple?**

How is Jesus' reputation impacted by the actions of His disciples? Can the stumblings of His followers still bring glory to God and demonstrate His love and mercy? If so, How?

3) [Matthew 9:10-12] The Pharisees protested that Jesus was eating with tax collectors and sinners. **Jesus replied, “it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”** What did Jesus mean by this reply?

How might the Pharisees have understood that reply if he just stopped there?

4) [Matthew 9:13] Jesus tells the otherwise “learn-ed” Pharisees to learn something from Hosea 6:6. **What was Jesus ultimately calling the Pharisees to do?**

What condition is Jesus placing on the invitation to follow him—what do we have to do before we can follow Him?

Bringing it home

5) Do you feel “qualified” to follow Jesus as a disciple?

If not, what do you think it would take for you to recognize He has already invited you?

6) Do you struggle with seeing certain other people as “qualified” to follow Jesus as a disciple? If so, why do you think that is?

What would it take for you to recognize that everyone is invited into the God’s Kingdom?

7) Does the open invitation from Jesus mean that we as His followers need to extend a similar invitation to others in our lives? If so, what do you think the limits should be on that invitation?