

## **WEEK 3 | EATING WITH SINNERS | MATTHEW 9:9-13**

# Inspection - "What does it say?"

Where was Matthew sitting when Jesus saw him? (verse 9)

Who noticed and questioned Jesus' actions? (verse 11)

What did Jesus hear? (verses 11-12)

According to Jesus, who does and does not need a doctor? (verse 12)

What did Jesus say we need to learn? (verse 13)

#### Observation – "What does it mean?"

Consider what Matthew left behind to follow Jesus. What does that mean for us?

Consider what influence Matthew would have brought to the disciples.

How would it change the group?

Consider what maladies are caused by sin in a person's life.

Consider how Jesus uses your life's back story to tell His story to others.

How are you unique?

Consider how a person can learn to grow in mercy and not sacrifice.

What does this mean?

#### Life Application - "What does it mean for me?"

Intentionally place yourself in a situation to influence others for Jesus.

Pray for those around you daily as you follow Jesus.

Host a dinner and invite those who you know need Jesus.

Guard against the temptation to judge what you assume are the motives of others.

Read Hosea chapter six in context to Jesus' quote in verse 13.

#### Meditation - "What does God say?"

1 Corinthians 4:5 Proverbs 3:34 Hebrews 4:13 Romans 5:8

2 Corinthians 5:21 Job 33:27-28 Romans 8:1-4 1 Timothy 1:15-17

## **Supplication: What Can We Meditate?**

#### Prayer of Deliverance from a Critical and Judgmental Spirit

Abba Father, the giver and sustainer of life. How bountiful is Your mercy and rich Your compassion. I approach You humbly today asking You to deliver me from a critical and judgmental spirit.

Lord, I am reminded that I am not beyond the reach of temptation, hardships, troubles, or even making mistakes. May I never take this for granted, that I, too, can be in the same position as the people toward whom I am expressing judgment and criticism.

Your Word reminds me that I am saved by Your grace and not by my good works, so I have no reason to boast or be high-minded. Lord, I repent for being quick to pass judgement, both in speech and thought. For every time my words or actions of judgment and condemnation have hurt someone, Father, I repent.

Lord, I pray that I will not focus on the faults or shortcomings of others. Help me to see others through the eyes of grace. Please help me to not judge people based on their outward appearance. I am reminded of the story when You sent Samuel to anoint one of Jesse's sons to be king, and You told Samuel that man looks at the outward appearance, but You look at the heart.

Father, I pray that I will not reject or condemn others because they don't conform to my idea of holiness or meet my standards. Lord, please set me free from religiosity and may I focus on teaching people the truth of Jesus Christ rather than man-made rules and requirements.

Lord, I ask You to create in me a clean heart, renew a right spirit within me, deliver me from pride and self-righteousness, clothe me with humility, and fill me with love.

In Jesus' Name, Amen!