

Lesson 2 (6/7): Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 — Jesus Calls, Heals, and Restores

Scripture Focus

Jesus calls Matthew the tax collector, shares fellowship with sinners, and responds compassionately to those in desperate need.

Read the verse aloud

Memorable quotes/notes:

Historical / Linguistic Context

- Tax collectors were often seen as morally compromised and socially rejected.
- Sharing a meal signaled acceptance, not merely hospitality.
- Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6 (“I desire mercy, not sacrifice”), prioritizing compassion over empty religious performance.
- Jesus’ healings restore both physical wellness and social belonging.
- Mercy often requires inconvenience.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus intentionally chose someone like Matthew?
2. How comfortable are we with mercy when it feels costly or inconvenient?
3. For those who are cautious about giving too much, what does “mercy” look like without feeling taken advantage of?
4. What might Jesus be asking us to reconsider when He says, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice”?

CLOSING PRAYER