

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

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January 19 – Matthew 9:1-17

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. ² Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” ³ And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!” ⁴ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” ⁷ And he arose and departed to his house. ⁸ Now when the multitudes saw *it*, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

⁹ As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him. ¹⁰ Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what *this* means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” ¹⁴ Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?”

¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶ No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. ¹⁷ Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

OKAY, HERE’S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

Here we see Jesus sitting down to share a meal with a bunch of tax collectors and sinners. There is no argument about this fact. Jesus came to connect with humanity and the only way to do that was to spend time with them. Jesus just called Matthew to follow him. He left his job as a tax collector and welcomed Jesus into his house. Matthew called all of his friends and their friends to get together to hear this man called Jesus who was now a celebrity in Israel.

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Along with the apostles and his disciples there was a group of religious people that kept following Jesus around waiting for him to make a mistake. This group was called the Pharisees. They were very legalistic and they had a prideful holier than thou attitude. They could not believe that this man called Jesus who was known to be a prophet was actually sitting down and share a meal with tax collectors and sinners.

This is why they asked Jesus disciples: "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus spoke up and answered for himself saying that those who are well do not need a doctor or physician but those that are sick. When Jesus said: learn what this means I desire mercy and not sacrifice he was really saying guys it's all about a relationship with God not a religion-ship. Yes, the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament were a shadow of the ultimate sacrifice that would cleanse and forgive the sins of humanity though Jesus Christ and his blood alone. In other words, God desires a family relationship with people and that's why he has provided mercy for us all through Jesus Christ. Some people only know God through rules and regulations and they have a legalistic relationship with God that's based in fear. Yes we should obey God and keep His Word but not to the extent that it causes us to become like the Pharisees judging everybody else around us, thinking that we are better or holier than other people. No, it's only because of the goodness, love and mercy of God through Jesus that any of us can be made righteous and restored to a right relationship with God through faith.

Jesus continued to explain that he was really talking about the spiritual condition or the heart of man saying I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. You see, time and time again Jesus preached and taught that all men were sinners in need of salvation. That salvation starts by acknowledging the true condition of your heart and repenting, changing your mind and heart and turning away from sin to God where you will find not judgment but mercy and salvation. The Pharisees thought that they did not need to repent. Jesus was really saying to everybody in that house right in the middle of dinner, I'm calling you all to repent and be healed in your hearts, saved and reconciled to my heavenly father God.

WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) Never think that Jesus doesn't care about you
- 2) Jesus is always willing to meet you right where you are just like Matthew and all his tax collector and sinner friends.
- 3) Be careful not to become a Pharisee with a critical, judgmental and holier than thou attitude against people that have not yet made Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior.
- 4) Total healing of your spirit, soul and body come through Jesus the great physician

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5) Christianity is all about mercy, grace and faith through Jesus Christ which brings us into a right relationship with our heavenly father God.

6) Jesus calls all sinners to repentance and to follow him as Lord of their lives

7) Throw a dinner party or have a barbecue and invite a bunch of pre-Christians and show them lot's of love, acceptance and then preach the good news about Jesus love and salvation to them.

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