

## Matthew 9:10-13 Jesus Eating With Publicans and Sinners

Introduction: Back in Verse 9 Jesus had called Matthew to preach. He was a publican and therefore not the kind the Pharisees would have recommended to the ministry. The Jews hated the publicans because they worked for the Romans and because most of the publicans had taxed them excessively. Even Matthew had probably done so before he was saved.

### I. The great feast which Matthew gave in honor of Jesus.

- A. Matthew tells about the feast, but does not tell us that he gave the feast.
  - 1. Luke does in Luke 5:29.
  - 2. Jesus had honored him by calling him to the ministry and so he gave a feast in honor of Jesus.
- B. Being a publican, he had no friends among the Pharisees, and he therefore invited his former business associates, the publicans. (These were outcasts in the eyes of the Pharisees.)
- C. There may have been other personal friends (“publicans and sinners”).
- D. Since the purpose of the feast was to honor Jesus, Matthew must have used the occasion to tell why he was quitting the tax business and going to work for Jesus.
  - 1. He had gotten saved under the preaching of John the Baptist.
  - 2. He had now learned that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ.
  - 3. Jesus has called him to preach.
- E. Matthew must have called upon his friends to trust Jesus.

### II. The criticism by the Pharisees

- A. The Pharisees had not attended the feast, but had observed what had taken place there. (It was in a private home, but it was done publicly-- not secretly.)
- B. Note that the Pharisees are becoming increasingly critical of Jesus.
  - 1. When Jesus had told the paralytic that his sins were forgiven, the Pharisees were critical, but did not voice it.
  - 2. Now they voice their opposition, but not to Him personally. (Only to His disciples.)
  - 3. They present their criticism in the form of a question: “Why does your Master eat with publicans and sinners?”
- C. The Pharisees assumed that Jesus became guilty of sin by eating with sinners.

### III. The answer Jesus gave to the criticism.

- A. If the disciples even tried to answer Matthew says nothing about it; they referred the question to Jesus.
- B. Jesus answered that the well do not need the doctor but the sick.
  - 1. The doctor is not made sick by being in contact with the sick, but rather has the opportunity to make them well like he is.
  - 2. Even so Jesus is not made a sinner by association with the sinner but is given an opportunity to free the sinner from his sin.
  - 3. This was Jesus' purpose in coming to the world: to seek and to save that which was lost.
  - 4. This was His purpose in eating with publicans and sinners.
- C. He had not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.
  - 1. Actually all men are sinners and therefore he has commanded all to repent and would have all to come to repentance.
  - 2. But some in their self-righteousness do not see themselves as sinners and in need of repentance.
  - 3. Jesus especially calls for those who are aware of their sin to repent and be saved.

D. Jesus then quoted Hosea 6:6 to the Pharisees and told them Pharisees to learn its meaning.

1. God is a God of mercy and therefore is quite willing to receive sinners who will repent.
2. If these Pharisees had known the meaning of the scripture they would have understood this.

Conclusion:

1. If there is one lost sinner in this congregation I am calling upon you to repent and trust the Savior.
2. If you have been saved then like Matthew it should be your desire to honor Jesus.
3. It should also be the desire of the saved to make contact with others and invite them that they too might know Jesus as we do.