

Living Connections Bible Study

The Tax Collector



Text: Matthew 9:9-13

Prayer

Icebreaker: Go around the room and talk about careers that are looked up to and respected in society.

1. Why were Jewish tax collectors in Bible times despised by almost everyone except fellow tax collectors and other rejects of society? (Look up the word *publican* online or in an encyclopedia)

2. What other kinds of sinners were tax collectors identified with?
Matthew 9:10; 18:17; 21:31-32

3. What was *involved* in Jesus invitation to Matthew when He dropped by his tax office and said, *Follow Me*? Matthew 9:9; 4:17; 11:28-30

4. What lessons can we learn from the fact that Matthew immediately got up and walked away from his tax business to follow the Savior? Matthew 9:9

Matthew was about to learn this happy day that: *There is no pit so deep, but God's grace and love are not deeper still.* (Corrie Ten Boon)

5. What important lesson had Matthew learned about the quest for comfort, wealth and pleasure? Matthew 6:24

6. What did it cost Matthew to follow Jesus? Matthew 9:9; Luke 5:28

7. Was his decision worth the cost? Matthew 16:24-26

8. Who did Matthew want to introduce his new found Savior to? Matthew 9:10

9. What was the reaction of the Pharisees, and why? Matthew 9:11

10. What important lesson do we learn from Jesus' example? Matthew 9:12
Revelation 22:17; 2 Peter 3:9

The person for whom Christ can do nothing is the person who thinks they are so good they don't need a Savior. And the person for whom Christ can do everything is the person who recognizes their sin and failure before God, and is willing to turn in faith to follow Jesus like Matthew did.

11. What did Hosea and Jesus mean when they said, *I desire mercy and not sacrifice.*
Matthew 9:13, Hosea 6:4-6; 11:7-9

Think about it this week:

Some want to live within the sound of church and chapel bell

But I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell

~ Famous missionary C.T. Studd