

# *Come to the Table Sermon Series*

10-7-2018

## *Sermon Based Small Group Guide*

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*Join us Wednesday night 10.10.18 for dinner from 5:15-6:00  
and sermon based small groups from 6:15-7:30.*

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If you could invite three people to dinner (from any time in history - past or present, currently alive or dead) who would they be? Why would you invite that person?

### **Read Hosea 6:1-6 and Matthew 9:9-13**

Why do you suppose Jesus invited Matthew to be a follower? Does it surprise you that Jesus chose Matthew? Why?

Consider Matthew for a moment. What do you know about tax collectors? What was the “public opinion” of them? Why? Does it surprise you that Matthew “got up and followed” Jesus seemingly without question or hesitation? Explain.

Jesus goes “to table” with Matthew and his friends. Why were the Pharisees so surprised that Jesus would eat with this group? What “biblical grounds” (or at least OT passages) did they have for criticizing Jesus?

Jesus challenges the prevailing conceptions of “holiness” by extending the table and eating with tax collectors and sinners. What do you think are the current-day conceptions of holiness? Do you think it is difficult to accommodate Jesus’ social habits?

How does Jesus explain and defend his actions at the table? Jesus quotes from Hosea 6:6, what is the difference between “mercy” and “sacrifice”?

## **Application**

Martin Luther once wrote to a friend this warning: “Beware of ever desiring such purity that you do not want to seem to yourself to be a sinner. . .” What’s at the heart of Luther’s warning? Why would this be a “peril” in your relationship with God and with others?

In the “call of Matthew” Jesus ties hospitality to the mission – “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” Do you ever eat with friends, neighbors, others who a modern day “Pharisee” might label as a sinner? Can you think of one person that you know (who is at least an acquaintance) but probably not a follower of Jesus? Would you be willing to invite them to breakfast, lunch, dinner or at least out for coffee?