



October 12, 2014

Part Two: Jesus, Friend of Sinners

Introduction

Jesus faced all of the same feelings, emotions and temptations that we do, and yet He lived a perfect life. Jesus saw a man named Matthew, a tax collector, and said to him, "Follow me." While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. (Matthew 9:9-13) Jesus was confronted with a woman who was caught in the act of adultery by the Pharisees. Jesus bent down with compassion and said, "Then neither do I condemn you, go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8:1-11)

Discussion Questions

1. It is recorded and evident in the four gospels that Jesus hung out with sinners. When you reflect on the attitude and actions of Jesus, why did the Pharisees have a problem with Jesus' lifestyle, being a friend of sinners? What observations or conclusions come to mind when Scripture describes Jesus as a friend of sinners?
2. Why is it important to clarify Jesus pursuing Matthew (Matthew 9:9-13)? Why did Jesus not condemn the woman caught in the act of adultery but said, "go and sin no more" (John 8:1-11)? Can you identify and share an experience where you or someone else has been pursued by Christ? Forgiven by Christ?
3. Having a "Matthew Party" is a very intriguing idea. What do you remember Pastor Jared sharing about a "Matthew Party"? Are you interested in throwing a "Matthew Party"? Does this intimidate you or energize you? Who would be on your invite list? How would you feel as an unbeliever to be on the invite list for a "Matthew Party"? As a follower of Christ are you intentional about including unbelievers in your daily life?
4. Define being "grace-driven" and "truth-led." Discuss how we as a church (followers of Christ) can become more effective in reaching out to others in this way. How can we effectively balance being "in the world, but not of the world"?
5. Are you more like Jesus or the Pharisees in your attitudes and actions? Why?
6. Do you see others through the eyes of Jesus? Who is God calling you to reach out to as a friend?

Conclusion

Jesus said...

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!" John 14:9