

Sermon Theme

Jesus calls sinners, touches the hurting, and shows that grace reaches people before they have everything together. In Matthew 9, Jesus calls Matthew from the tax booth, shares a table with sinners, stops for a suffering woman, and walks toward a grieving home. Every scene shows mercy moving first.

Big Idea

The table of Jesus is not a reward for people who have everything together. It is a place of mercy for sinners, sufferers, and weary people who know they need Him. Communion reminds us that we come not because we have earned our place, but because grace has made room.

What the Passage Shows Us

Matthew's story begins at the tax booth, the place tied to his reputation and separation from respectable religious life. Most people saw Matthew and thought they already knew who he was. Jesus saw him and called him.

Jesus did not wait for Matthew to clean up his life or prove himself worthy. He called him while he was still sitting in the place everyone associated with his sin and compromise. Grace came first, and Matthew responded.

Then Jesus shares a meal with tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees struggle with that because they believe holiness requires distance from people whose lives look morally compromised. Jesus shows that holiness looks like mercy moving toward those who need healing.

Jesus does not pretend sin is harmless. He says the sick need a doctor. That means something is wrong, but it also means help has come. Jesus names the sickness so He can bring healing.

Grace at the Table

The table becomes a sign of Jesus' mercy. He sits with people others would have avoided. He does not make the table smaller. He makes grace visible.

That connects directly to Communion. The Lord's table is not a prize for impressive Christians. If it were only for people who had never sinned, struggled, doubted, or needed forgiveness, none of us could come.

When we receive the bread and cup, we do not come saying, "Look how worthy I am." We come saying, "Lord, I need You." The sick need a doctor. The hungry need bread. The guilty need mercy. The weary need grace.

Jesus Sees Hidden Pain

On the way to a grieving home, a woman reaches for Jesus from the crowd. She has been bleeding for twelve years. That is a long time to hurt, feel tired, and wonder if anyone still sees you.

She reaches quietly, but her faith is real. Jesus stops for her. He is not too busy for hidden suffering. He sees her, restores her, and gives her dignity as well as healing.

Jesus Enters Grief

The ruler comes to Jesus because his daughter is beyond human help. His title cannot save her. His status cannot fix death. So he kneels before Jesus. Jesus goes with him.

That small movement says a great deal. Jesus does not treat grief as an interruption. He walks toward it. He enters the place where hope seems gone and brings life with Him.

What This Means for Us

Many of us come to Jesus unfinished. Some know what it is to sit at the booth, carrying labels or patterns we wish did not define us. Some know what it is to hurt quietly at the edge of the crowd. Some know what it is to stand in a room where grief feels heavy.

Matthew 9 tells us that Jesus meets people in all those places.

That is why Communion matters so deeply. The table gathers the truth of this passage into one holy meal. Jesus gives Himself to people who need mercy. We come with repentance, faith, wounds, grief, and hunger for grace. We come not because we have everything together, but because Christ has given Himself for us.

Key Truths

Jesus sees people beyond their labels.

Grace reaches Matthew while he is still at the tax booth.

Jesus' table includes people others might avoid.

Mercy does not ignore sin, but it refuses to treat sinners as hopeless.

Jesus stops for hidden suffering.

Faith does not have to be loud to be real.

Jesus enters grief and brings hope with Him.

Communion is a gift of grace for people who need Christ.

Questions for Reflection

Where do I feel most unfinished before God right now?

What does Jesus' meal with sinners teach me about mercy?

Where do I need to stop pretending I am fine and reach for Christ?

How does Communion remind me that grace comes first?

Who needs me to make room at the table with more compassion?

What would it look like this week to offer the mercy I have received?

Takeaway

Matthew 9 shows Jesus moving toward people in need. He calls Matthew before Matthew has cleaned up his reputation. He eats with sinners before they have everything figured out. He stops for a suffering woman and walks toward a grieving home. This is the same Jesus who invites us to His table. Communion reminds us that grace is not for people who have earned their place. Grace is for sinners, sufferers, and weary people who know they need Christ.

Key Verse

“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick... For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” — Matthew 9:12–13