

Gospel Reflection

Today's scriptures show us two different types of sinners – both of whom Jesus calls to sit with him at table. First there are the self-reliant types. These sinners believe above all in their own abilities. The people from the time of Hosea thought they could bring an end to their afflictions simply by offering burnt sacrifices to God. The Pharisees of Jesus' time believed in their own efforts to keep them holy and righteous – efforts that would not allow them to eat with known sinners. Perhaps we know people like this. They think they are invincible. Anything bad that happens is someone else's fault. They look down on others and seem unable to realize that they themselves are sinners, too.

Then there are the "God-reliant" types. These sinners believe above all in God's abilities. They know their own talents as well as their limits. They take their share of responsibility for the troubles in our world and trust in God to lead them forward. We remember Abraham not because of his great abilities, but because of his reliance on God's power in the face of his own inabilities. Matthew is a model of discipleship, not because he was a saint, but because he recognized himself as a sinner, felt God's loving embrace, and "got up and followed" Jesus (Matthew 9:9).

Which type of sinner are you: the self-reliant or God-reliant type? The type who knows or doesn't know your need for God? The type who resists or rejoices in God's love and mercy? The type who takes your share of responsibility for the "affliction" in the world and in your relationships? The type who shows mercy to other sinners and eats with them? Whichever type you are feeling most like today, Jesus' message to you is the same: Admit your weakness, put your faith in God, and "Follow me."

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Matthew 9:9-13

S H G T R W N F C U L T V
I R L E E E O K N P W S P
C F O L R L H A X E I O H
K T L T L I I C H U A P A
M U A O C C G T A K K S R
S E W B I E T H C E C M I
P M U S L A L T T Z T O S
E Y Y E M E P L U E R T E
P H T A E M O E O M O S E
P W Y E J Q J R Y C E U S
S A C R I F I C E B X C S
T S R E N N I S E F E A F
R M E R C Y J Z G N A T T

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

CUSTOMS POST	EAT	FOLLOW ME
MATTHEW	MERCY	PHARISEES
PHYSICIAN	RIGHTEOUS	SACRIFICE
SICK	SINNERS	TABLE
WELL	TEACHER	TAX COLLECTORS

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
6/8/2008*

*Matthew 9:9-13
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Matthew 9:9-13*

The Gospel according to Matthew

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your **teacher** eat with **tax collectors** and sinners?"

He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but **the sick** do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord



© 2007 J. S. Paluch Company, Inc.

Gospel Glossary

teacher: In Matthew's Gospel, when this term is used by Jesus' enemies, it means that they are unable to see Jesus' divinity and holiness, and instead see only a rival religious instructor.

tax collectors: Also called "publicans," these people were considered sinful by the religious authorities. To eat with such persons would have made the other diners ritually unclean.

the sick: Here this means "sickness of the soul" or sinfulness. Matthew contrasts those who know they are sick (sinful) and seek care (forgiveness) with those who are too proud or self-righteous to do so.



Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- Who do I tend to judge as unworthy of Jesus' friendship and attention?
- How can I let go of the feelings and resentments that make it difficult to show mercy towards those people?
- Jesus *desires* mercy. What does that mean to me? How does it affect the way I practice my faith?

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven,

Words cannot measure the boundaries of your love for those born to new life in Christ Jesus. Raise us beyond the limits this world imposes, so that we may be free to love as Christ teaches and find joy in your glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time