

JESUS SAID, "FOLLOW ME"

Matthew 9:1-13

Key Verse: 9:9

1. When people brought a paralytic to Jesus, what did Jesus see and say (1-2)? Why did Jesus say "...your sins are forgiven"? Who objected, and why (3-4; Mk 2:7)? What did Jesus reveal about himself by showing his authority to forgive sins (5-8)?
2. Read verse 9. Where did Jesus find Matthew? What kind of people were tax collectors, and why might Matthew have become one? In what ways can you relate to Matthew?
3. How did Jesus initiate a relationship with Matthew (9b)? What did Jesus have in mind when he said, "Follow me"? What did it mean to Matthew? What does it mean to us?
4. What decision did Matthew make, and what happened at his house (10)? How had Jesus' calling changed his life direction? Why did eating with sinners cause so much trouble for Jesus and his disciples (11)?
5. How did Jesus explain his reason for eating with sinners (12-13)? How did Jesus try to help the Pharisees have God's view of sinners? What can we learn about Jesus' mercy and hope in calling sinners to be his disciples?