

Study Guide

Sunday October 10, 2021

“Unlikely Allies”

1. → Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

2. Points to Remember

- A. It is not about where you start, but where you let the Lord takes you.
- B. With God's grace, every failure can become a testimony.
- C. Zeal is a good thing, but it can also be dangerous.
- D. Our zeal must always be tempered by our love for others.
- E. Only Christ can do so much with people who are so different.
- F. Jesus is always prioritizing relationship above religion.

3. Bible Verses

Luke 18:13-14	But the tax collector stood at a distance
Matthew 10:2-4	Matthew the tax collector; Simon the Zealot
Acts 22:3-5	I was just as zealous for God
Galatians 4:17-18	Fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good
Galatians 3:26-28	In Christ Jesus you are all children of God
Matthew 5:23-24	First go and be reconciled to them

4. Discussion Questions

- A. Why do you think this present season has become so divisive?
- B. Do you see any hope that hostilities are beginning to thaw?
- C. What role do you think Christians can play in bringing peace?