

JESUS CAME TO CALL SINNERS

Matthew 9:1-17

Key Verse: 9:13

1. Read verses 1-2. Where do these events take place? (Where had Jesus been?) Who was brought to him and what was his condition? What kind of sinner might this helpless man be? How could he see their faith? What did Jesus say to this man? Why, "Take heart, son?" Why did Jesus forgive the man's sins instead of healing him?

2. Read verse 3-8. How did some teachers of the law react to Jesus' words? Why? Why did he call their thoughts "evil?" What did he say to them? How did Jesus show his authority to forgive sins? What did the crowd recognize about Jesus?

3. Read verses 9-13. Where did Jesus find Matthew? What kind of people were tax collectors? Why are they classed with "sinners?" What was Jesus' invitation and Matthew's response? How is this connected with the previous event?

4. Read verses 10-13 again. Where did Jesus go for lunch? Who criticized him and why? How did Jesus explain his reason for eating with sinners? How does he challenge his critics?

5. Read verses 14-17. What question did John's disciples raise? Why? How did Jesus answer? What does it mean in this context? [what are the new wine and old wine? The unshrunk cloth and the old garment? The new wine and new wineskins?] What is Jesus teaching about himself and his gospel?