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# Matthew Chapter 9

## 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever judged someone in some way and then later realized you were wrong? Describe what happened?

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- b. Has someone ever judged you incorrectly or tried to make other people believe you were a different kind of person than you really are? How did that make you feel?

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## 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In the middle of this chapter Jesus called Matthew, the tax collector, to follow Him. The Pharisees were apparently okay with fishermen and other such simple people but when Jesus called a tax collector they got really upset! Verse 10 says that, “Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.” Then in verse 11 the NLT says the Pharisees asked Jesus’ disciples why their master eats with such, “scum!”

Can you imagine your pastor calling anyone scum? What does this say about these religious leaders? Doesn’t the Bible say to love everyone?

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Why do you think Jesus intentionally reached out to people despised by the Jewish society to become His followers?

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Do you think Jesus was intentionally trying to make friends with people known for being sinners? Why/why not?

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If Jesus hadn't reached out to this group of people, who do you think would have?

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Is it ever a temptation for you to think of other people or people groups as scum, or as lower class than you? Why/why not?

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Do you think Jesus placed people in classes? Why/why not?

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 **3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

In this passage Jesus said that it is not the healthy people that need a doctor—sick people do. Try to think of some people in your community that are sick and in need of a doctor—especially a spiritual doctor.

Do some research on the people groups that live in your area. Find out why they may have emigrated to your area if they are from another country. Try to find out if they were fleeing persecution of some kind or if they were fleeing poverty and trying to find more opportunity for their children and grandchildren to make a better life. How do you think you could help these people find a better life for themselves?

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 **4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

Pray and ask Jesus to change your attitude about people that you typically see as lower class than yourself. Ask Him to help you value and find ways to reach out to these people or people groups.