

Jesus Welcomes Sinners (Matt 9:9-13; Mark 1:29-34)

1. Who can come to Jesus? Do you have to be good? Do you have to have a certain amount of money? Do you have to be healthy and beautiful?

2. Why did people come to Jesus?

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Max7.org): Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law of a very high fever, and then he goes on to heal many others in the town of Capernaum. Jesus has the authority to heal sickness and cast out demons. Matthew, a tax collector, was considered the worst of sinners in people's eyes but Jesus invited himself to his home for a meal. Just as the sick need healing, Jesus has come to overturn the ultimate hold that sin has on our lives. Will you follow him?

Dramatically read the two accounts and help the student visualize what is happening:

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went into Simon and Andrew's house with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. So he went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them.

When evening came, after the sun had set, they brought to him all those who were sick and demon-possessed. The whole town was assembled at the door, and he healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. (Mark 1:29-34, CSB)

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, "Follow me," and he got up and followed him.

While he was reclining at the table in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Now when he heard this, he said, "It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matt 9:9-13, CSB)

Note to teacher: While the video presents these two periscopes as occurring consecutively, they are two events separated by days and after intervening other works of miracles.

Show the video.

1. Who can come to Jesus? Do you have to be good? Do you have to have a certain amount of money? Do you have to be healthy and beautiful?

Help the student recognize that anyone can come to Jesus, and that He accepts everyone as they are.

It did not matter what someone looked like – they can be homeless.

It did not matter if they were good or bad – they could be in prison.

It did not matter what they did or how much money they had – they could be beggars.

Jesus came for sinners – people who did not desire to follow God's words.

2. Why did people come to Jesus?

To help the student, replay the video at 1:41 and / or re-read Matthew 9:9-13, and ask the student what he “sees.”

Many Jews believed that sin and illness were related, so they sought forgiveness for their sin – they sought mercy so that their illness could be healed.

The people who came to Jesus were those who recognized that they were sinners and needed to be forgiven.

Note to teacher: share your experience of why you came to Jesus to the student.