

# The Gospel According to Luke- Part 2

---

**FOLLOW ME**

**PART 1**

*Two Words that require action*

**READ MATTHEW 9:9-13**

## INTRODUCTION

*It is no secret that Jesus spent time with people who the religious leaders considered to be less than pure. The fact that He spent time with sinners does not mean that He was a sinner Himself. He did not lower Himself to their level but, raised them up to His. This is important because, while Jesus absolutely loves sinners, that love does not condone the actions of the sinners. He loves us too much to leave us in our sins. Those sins will separate us from Him as well as the Father so, He desires us to follow Him and be made holy as we do so. The religious leaders were concerned about Jesus fellowshiping with the sinners and tax collectors because of the deep meaning behind eating together with others in the Jewish culture. It leads Jesus to mention that those who are sick are the ones who need a physician and not those who are healthy. It is important for us to remember this as well because, we often can be similar to the religious leaders ourselves if we are not careful. We tend to think that our sins are not that bad and that others' have more of an issue than us. We can fall into the trap of sounding like the Pharisee in Luke 18 who, in his pride, belittles someone else and forgets that humility is a key part of our relationship with God.*

*Finally, Jesus mentions His desire for mercy and not sacrifice. This is something that we would do well to study and find His meaning because, we live in a culture even today that values hard work, sacrifice, and struggle when we are trying to achieve new heights in our lives. (Professionally or personally) This can lead to an achievement based "score-card" that we try and earn our way into God's good graces. This goes against what God has given us in the free gift of salvation that Christ offers. It tries to earn our way when God only wants us to "follow Him".*

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

---

### *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

1. Why do you think it was important (or meaningful) for Jesus to spend so much time with sinners and tax collectors? How could the religious leaders have better responded and learned about their own relationship with God? What can we do to better represent Christ in those circles?
2. What do you think it means to love sinners? How can we interact with them as Jesus did without lowering ourselves to be sinners ourselves? How does the phrase, "Bad company corrupts good character" fit into that? (1 Corinthians 15:33)
3. Read Luke 18:9-14. How do these verses relate to the passage in Matthew? What is the main problem coming from the Pharisee? Do you struggle with feeling prideful in your relationship with Christ? How can you change that?
4. What is Jesus talking about when He says that He desires mercy and not sacrifice? How can we show mercy to others?
5. Do you struggle with trying to "achieve" things for God? Is that bad? Why or why not? How can we better serve God and not focus on the score-card but still be focused on pleasing Him?

### *WRAP UP*

Jesus was not afraid of hanging out with sinners but, it is important to remember that He was mature in His walk with the Father and He was not falling into areas of temptation. There are boundaries that we must set when interacting with people outside of the faith because, we cannot be helping if we are falling into sin ourselves. We want to draw people closer to Christ and that means not looking like the world.