

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Hosea 5:15--6:6

Psalm 50:7-15

Call upon me in the day of trouble, says your God. (v15)

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you are the source of life & the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, & raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 9:9-13

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; & he said to him, "Follow me." & he got up & followed him. ¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors & sinners came & were sitting with him & his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors & sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go & learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What do the following add to your understanding of St. Matthew's call?
See Matthew 4:18-22, 8:19-22, 11:19
2. The first of the 12 Steps is to admit that "I am powerless over my situation- that my life has become unmanageable." Next comes "believing a power greater than myself can restore my sanity" and then "making a decision to turn over my life to the care of God." How do we see these steps in this story about St. Matthew? (*See #4 for a hint.*) How does this fit with beginning to develop into a fully devoted follower of Jesus?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Think about your own, "call story." How did you begin developing into a fully devoted follower of Jesus? What were the moments that made discipleship "real" for you? How did you encounter Jesus, up close and personal?
4. Tax collection & enforcement is a near-universally hated vocation. Jesus' association with St. Matthew and his colleagues showed divine mercy. What specific, concrete mercy has Jesus shown you in your life and sins? Who would point to you as an agent of God's mercy in everyday life? How come (or not)? *See Matthew 18:23-35; Luke 7:36-50*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Jesus lets the Pharisees know (*v13*) that they're the pot calling the kettle black (*v11*). The world often makes this charge against the Church and local congregations. How is it true in your congregation? How is it not? How can you lead the way with some reflection, repentance, and re-engagement with neighbors?
6. Which among your friends is "searching for God," but not of the same "middle-class sensibilities" of your congregation (*cf. vv10-11*)? How can you help introduce them to Jesus and the Body of Christ at your congregation?

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Second Sunday after Pentecost

06.11.23

Series: Reality Check

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Reality of the Calling

Is your life messy? You're just the kind of person Jesus is looking for.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: As [Jesus] sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors & sinners came & were sitting with him & his disciples. (v10)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
& has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. (Luke 4:18)**

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