

**THE PERSON JESUS SEES!**  
**MATTHEW CH9:9-13 (Mark Ch2:13-17 + Luke Ch5:27-32)**

**ILLUSTRATION**

Richard and Adam on BGT 22 April 2013! The Quest!

To dream the impossible dream	To right the unrightable wrong
To fight the unbeatable foe	To love pure and chaste from afar
To bear with unbearable sorrow	To try when your arms are too weary
To run where the brave dare not go	To reach the unreachable star
This is my quest, to follow that star	And I know if I'll only be true
No matter how hopeless, no matter	To this glorious quest
how far, To fight for the right	That my heart will lay peaceful and
Without question or pause	calm
To be willing to march	When I'm laid to my rest
Into hell for a heavenly cause	
And the world will be better for this	
That one man scorned and covered with scars	
Still strove with his last ounce of courage	
To fight the unbeatable foe	
To reach the unreachable star	

**JESUS QUALIFIES THE UNQUALIFIED! V9**

What do we know about Matthew? A Jew and a tax collector, meaning he is both a traitor and crook! The form of discipleship that Jesus institutes is both unexpected and shocking! Why? Because He breaks down barriers between social classes, overturns religious conceptions of well-being and abolishes slavish adherence to religious cultural traditions! Taxes in ancient Rome were collected by the highest bidders for a collection contract. The tax collectors usually came from the native population and were required to collect a certain amount of tax money for the Roman authorities and whatever extra they collected was for their own "commission". *A tendency to excessive extortion* made them despised and hated by their own people (Luke Ch19:8).

For Jesus, Matthew is a notorious convert! For Matthew, discipleship has an immediate cost, for collecting taxes not only filled the coffers for the governor but also meant a lucrative income for the tax collector.

### **JESUS' QUALITIES ARE QUESTIONED! V10-11**

Satan's best friends are the unforgiven sinners!!!! Jesus has come to rescue sinners from Satan! To the Pharisees a “sinner” was a person who had violated the law according to their interpretations. But to Jesus a “sinner” was any person who remained opposed to the will of God!

The calling of Matthew and the following feast shows us Jesus' great mercy. He reaches out to blatant sinners and social outcasts and even takes one of them and calls him to be both a disciple (Matt Ch10:2-4, Mark Ch3:16-19 and Luke Ch6:14-16) and an apostle (Acts Ch1:13)!

Jesus did something so radical, something the religious rulers would not dare do! The sinners needed Jesus the most, so with sinners Jesus stayed!

### **JESUS QUOTES HIS QUEST! V12-13**

Remember the lyrics from “To dream the impossible dream”? - “And the world will be better for this, that one man scorned and covered with scars, still strove with his last ounce of courage, to fight the unbeatable foe, to reach the unreachable star”

The Pharisees consider themselves to be righteously healthy before God because they define their righteousness by their observance of the law – their “sacrifice”. Therefore Jesus continues: “But go and learn what this means” and Jesus uses a quote from the Old Testament Book “Hosea” Ch6:6 “I desire mercy, not sacrifice”. In Hosea's day although people continued with the Temple Worship and rituals, they had lost the centre and heart of their God-given religion. Jesus aligns the Pharisees with the people of Hosea's day, who had forgotten the compassionate God, who shows mercy!

Jesus' offer of salvation to sinners apart from observances to the law interpreted by the Pharisees, threatens their way of life, yet is at the heart of the Gospel Jesus announces!

### **APPLICATION**

Jesus' merciful outreach demonstrates for us our own calling to seek out those who are sinfully sick and invite them to experience the forgiving power of Jesus to their souls and to be drawn into fellowship and discipleship!

If Jesus' mission is characterised by grace and the pursuit of the lost, what should ours be?

What do you think Matthew had lost and found?