A Table for Outsiders

A Table for Two | Week 1
Nate Marsh | November 1, 2026

When Jesus is at the table, nobody leaves exactly the way they came.

Matthew 9:9-13

1. Jesus _____ Beyond Our Sin.

Rome occupied Israel, and tax collectors often collected money from their own people for the Roman government. They had opportunities to charge more than was required and pocket the difference. Grace doesn't pretend our sin isn't real. Grace makes forgiveness possible.

People may define you by what you've done, but Jesus sees who you can become through His grace.

2. Jesus _____ with Sinners.

Matthew 9:10, 11

You don't have to know everything about Jesus to introduce someone to Jesus.

Christians cannot reach people we've already decided to reject.

3. Jesus _____ the Sick.

Matthew 9:12–13

It's possible to know a lot about God and still fail to reflect God's heart toward people.

Romans 3:23

Jesus welcomes us as we are, but He doesn't call us to remain as we were.

Questions for Further Study

1. Icebreaker / Team Building: Have you ever been surprised by someone you initially judged or misunderstood? What changed your perspective about that person?

2. Read Matthew 9:9. Jesus saw Matthew as more than a tax collector with a bad reputation. What does this encounter teach us about how Jesus sees people differently than we often do?

3. Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. How do these passages challenge our tendency to define people by their past mistakes rather than who they can become through God's grace?

4. The sermon says, “You don't have to know everything about Jesus to introduce someone to Jesus.” Read John 1:40–42 and John 4:28–30. What can we learn from the simple ways Andrew and the Samaritan woman introduced others to Jesus?

5. Read Matthew 9:10–13 and Hosea 6:6. Jesus challenged the Pharisees for emphasizing religious behavior while neglecting mercy. How can we make sure our church reflects God's heart for people who may feel unwelcome or unworthy?

6. Personal Reflection: The sermon challenged us to make room for one more person. Who in your life needs to experience the love and grace of Jesus? What practical step could you take this week—sending a text, making a phone call, or personally inviting them to sit with you at church—to help them take a step toward Jesus?