



Simple

Jesus arrived on the stage of world events and announced that God's intent was to connect with, not confuse, mankind. To those who were considered most distant from God, Jesus offered a message and invitation that was profoundly... simple. People who accepted his offer found themselves captivated by an extraordinary faith leading them to adopt a lifestyle that turned the world upside down.

Discussion Questions

1. Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
2. What causes people to believe that connecting with God is complex?
3. When did you first realize that God wants us to have a *personal relationship* with him? How did this affect how you viewed God?
4. **Read Matthew 9:9.** – Does it surprise you that Jesus would invite a tax collector to follow him? What does this tell us about Jesus? What does this tell us about the people who are invited to follow Jesus?
5. **Read Matthew 9:10.** – Does it seem unusual to you that after Jesus asked Matthew to follow him, they went to Matthew's house? Would you have expected Jesus to command Matthew to completely change his life, rather than expecting him to take baby steps? What expectations do you put on yourself? What expectations do you put on others?
6. **Read Matthew 9:11.** – Jesus liked people who were unlike him. Do you like people who are unlike you? Or do you tend to isolate yourself from those you don't approve of?
7. **Read Matthew 9:12-13** – Do you consider yourself to be healthy or sick? Do you feel that you have it all together, or do you recognize that there is something wrong? Do you emphasize mercy or sacrifice? How do these things affect the way you see Jesus and other people?

Moving Forward

Matthew got up from his chair and followed Jesus. What would it look like for you to accept the invite from Jesus to follow and belong?