



Harvester Groups | Questions for Week One—Matthew Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 5:27-31

Open

- Who is the smartest person you ever met? How does recognizing that Jesus is the smartest person who ever lived change the way you think about him?

Discuss*

- What is surprising about Jesus' choice of Matthew?
- What did Matthew give up by following Jesus? What did he gain?
- What is the irony in Jesus' response to the Pharisees' criticism?
- Put yourself in the place of the different characters in this story. How might they feel about this encounter?
- Why does God desire mercy instead of sacrifice?
- What would be different about your life if Jesus had come to call righteous people instead of sinners?
- What lessons do you see in this passage?

Reflect

- What kind of person might Matthew be today?
- Who are the "Matthews" in your life? How might you be a spiritual influence for them?
- Based on just this discussion, what should we pray about?

The difference between Jesus and the Pharisees lies in their conception of priorities in the will of God: for the Pharisees the first priority is obedience to regulations, for Jesus a mission to people. A healer must get his hands dirty.

~R.T. France

**Use these questions to guide your discussion. Don't feel like you have to go through all of them and make sure you take time to talk through any questions and observations from either the sermon or the lesson with the group.*

