



The Tax Man - Matthew 9:9-13

Small Group Questions

Week of July 19, 2026

Icebreaker: What's the biggest career change you've ever made—or if you could switch careers tomorrow, what would you choose?

Read Matthew 9:9-13 together.

1. What stands out to you most about this passage?

What surprised you?

What encouraged or challenged you?

2. Why was Matthew such an unexpected choice to become one of Jesus' disciples?

What was a tax collector's reputation?

Why do you think Jesus intentionally chose someone like Matthew?

3. Jesus simply said, "Follow Me," and Matthew immediately got up and followed Him (v. 9). *What do you think Matthew left behind?*

Why do you think he responded so quickly?

How is Jesus calling people to follow Him today?

4. After following Jesus, Matthew invited his friends to dinner with Jesus (vv. 10–11). *Why do you think this was Matthew's first response?*

What does this teach us about sharing our faith?

5. Jesus said, "It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick." (v. 12) *What does this tell us about Jesus' mission?*

Who are the "sick" in this illustration?

6. Jesus quoted Hosea 6:6: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." *What do you think Jesus meant?*

How can Christians sometimes emphasize religious activity while neglecting mercy?

Closing Challenge: Matthew's life reminds us that our past does not determine our future when Jesus calls us. The same Savior who saw beyond Matthew's reputation sees beyond ours. He still calls ordinary people, still extends extraordinary grace, and still invites us to participate in His mission.

This week ask yourself:

- What is Jesus asking me to leave behind?
- Who can I invite to meet Jesus?
- How can I show the same mercy I've received?

Optional Closing Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank You for calling ordinary people like us and loving us with extraordinary grace through Jesus Christ. Help us to follow You faithfully, leave behind anything that keeps us from You, and extend Your mercy to those around us. Use our lives this week to point others to Jesus and may everything we do bring glory to Your name. Amen."