

Matthew 9:9-13
Celebrating God's Mercy.

- I. Matthew's call and his banquet.
 - A. He left everything behind.
 - B. He hosted a banquet to honor Jesus.
 - C. Matthew used his wealth and his connections to bring the needy to Christ.

- II. Where Christ is honored, sinners are welcome.
 - A. Christ came to bring hope and forgiveness.
 - B. Forgiveness is a gift of God.
Ephesians 1:7; 2:8; Romans 8:34.
 - C. Christ's opponents aim to remove hope.
Isaiah 65:5; Mark 7:8-9; John 5:39-44; Matt 11:19.

- III. Where Christ is honored, people truly learn God's ways.
 - A. Hosea 6:6 expresses God's desire.
Matt 5:46-47.
 - B. God desires...mercy, compassion, steadfast love, loyalty.
 - C. God desires to be known.
John 17:3.

- IV. Your ministry: banquets for Jesus, invitations to sinners, learning to know God.
 - A. When Jesus calls you to follow him, leave all behind and go!
 - B. How do you use your resources to bring sinners to Jesus?
Luke 14:12-14
 - C. It is not true that only the leaders and the famous make important contributions to the kingdom of God.
 - D. Celebrate God's mercy by making him known!