

The Physician of Souls *Matthew 5:27-32*

The Roman government sold the rights to collect taxes to private individuals, which motivated _____
Jewish tax collectors were especially despised because most Jews rejected Rome's right to _____ them
In the gospels the Jews often speak of "tax collectors and sinners" or "tax collectors and _____"

I. WHO JESUS SOUGHT

- A. Jesus' Standard Operating Procedure: Jesus sought out tax collectors and _____
- B. The Contrast to Jesus' Heart
 - 1) The Pharisees separated from Greek influence, from Gentiles, even from the common _____
 - 2) The Pharisees emphasized obedience to the OT, but their obedience was _____
 - 3) The Pharisees overlooked matters of the _____ like love for God and love for man
 - 4) Though uninvited, the Pharisees pushed into the party as spectators to criticize _____
- C. Jesus' Vindication of His Standard Operating Procedure: His two-pronged answer
 - 1) Jesus compares Himself to a _____ of souls who must be where the sick (sinners) are
As Jesus' followers we must minister the gospel to souls—to deal with their deepest need: _____
Therefore like Jesus we must develop relationships with sinners, but that presents 2 problems:
 - a) *Some of us think more like _____ than like Jesus: we reject the wrong kind of people*
 - b) *Some don't know any unbelievers: we must be _____ about building such relationships*
 - 2) Jesus says that His mission is to call not the righteous but _____ to repentance
 - a) On the surface, this statement is self-evident: of course, the righteous don't need to _____
 - b) Jesus was pointing at the Pharisees: those who think they are righteous don't need _____

II. HOW JESUS SOUGHT HIM

- A. Jesus _____ with Sinners
 - 1) The Pharisees accused Jesus of being a "party animal" who wanted to eat, drink and be _____
 - 2) But Jesus' motive was not His own pleasure but the _____ of souls that He could reach
Warning: it is difficult for some of us to party with sinners and not end up just _____ them
- B. Jesus Came to Call Sinners to _____
 - 1) Repentance has been emptied from the gospel today—most think it means to confess _____
 - 2) Repentance = _____ : a complete change of life, turning from my way to follow Christ
 - 3) We may party with sinners, but it is always for the purpose of calling them to a complete _____

III. WHAT HAPPENED IN LEVI'S LIFE WHEN JESUS FOUND HIM

- A. Levi Left _____ to Follow Jesus
 - 1) Levi probably _____ more to follow Jesus than any of the other disciples
 - 2) The gospel demands complete change and _____ has the power to bring about that change
- B. Levi Was Immediately Concerned for the Souls of His _____
 - 1) Levi organized a _____ so that friends could meet the One who had done so much for him
 - 2) Levi's concern for the salvation of his friends is a mark of a truly _____ individual