

## THE KING'S CALL

### MATTHEW 9:9-17

It is impossible for a man to be freed from the habit of sin before he hates it, just as it is impossible to receive forgiveness before confessing his trespasses...

-Ignatius

#### I. Who Can Follow?

## II. Who Should Fast?

## Small Group Application Questions

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### *Getting to Know You*

1. Have you ever attended a party where you felt really out of place? Explain.

### *Into the Bible*

2. Matthew does not give us much detail in his description of how he answered Christ's call on him. It appears he responds immediately and as Luke tells us "left everything" to follow Christ. But given what Matthew has described in his Gospel what convinced him that following Christ was important enough to make him give up his prior life? Compare with I John 1:1-3. What had Matthew evidently seen and heard before he was willing to answer Christ's call in faith? Is our faith intended to be a "leap in the dark"?

3. Jesus' use of the illustrations of patching cloth and wine in wineskins was designed to highlight the incompatibility of the traditions of the Pharisees with His teachings of grace in the kingdom of God. Luke adds an additional comment by Jesus that no one really wants the new wine because they favor the old wine. Tradition is a strong thing. Looking at the rest of the passage what specific tradition(s) was Jesus criticizing in the Pharisees that He had come to overturn?  
(Matthew 9:11-13, Matthew 23:23, Matthew 6:1-2, Matthew 5:20)

### *Application*

4. Jesus offers a sharp rebuke to the Pharisees who claimed to know the Old Testament Scriptures when he tells them to "Go and learn what this means..." When He tells the gathered crowd that He came not for the righteous but to save sinners the Pharisees heard a rebuke, but Matthew and his friends heard something quite different in His words. What promise is extended to us if we hear Jesus correctly?  
(Luke 19:10, I Timothy 1:15)

### *For Families*

5. Talk with your children about why being good is not good enough for God, and why we need Jesus.