



5 Daily Devotionals (From August 9th Sermon)

Day 1 — Jesus Sees You

Key Verse:

“And he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’” — Matthew 9:9

Reflection:

Matthew was sitting in a place where everyone knew who he was—and they had already decided what kind of person he was. He was a tax collector, despised by his own people and viewed as a traitor and sinner.

But Jesus saw something different.

Jesus didn’t see merely “the tax collector.” He saw Matthew. He saw the person behind the stigma, the guilt, the regret, and the brokenness. More importantly, Jesus saw someone who needed a Savior.

The same is true for you. Jesus knows the things you wish others could never know. He sees your failures, regrets, fears, and struggles. Yet He does not turn away.

You are not invisible to God. You are not defined by your worst moment. Christ sees you completely—and He comes to you with grace.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for seeing me completely and loving me still. Help me remember today that my identity is not defined by my failures, but by Your grace. Amen.

Day 2 — “Follow Me”

Key Verse:

“And he rose and followed him.” — Matthew 9:9

Reflection:

When Jesus called Matthew, Matthew got up and followed Him. His old life and his new life could not simply remain the same. Following Jesus meant trusting Him with the future.

That same call comes to us. Jesus calls sinners—not because they have their lives together, but because they need Him.

Following Jesus does not mean we become perfect overnight. It means we live each day trusting the One who has forgiven us and redeemed us. His grace gives us a new direction.

Sometimes following Jesus means turning away from something that is pulling us away from Him. Sometimes it means confessing a sin we have been hiding. Sometimes it means choosing obedience when it costs us something.

But notice where the power begins: **Jesus calls**. Our response flows from His grace.

You don't follow Jesus to earn His love. You follow because, in Christ, His love has already been given to you.

Application:

Ask yourself: *What is one area of my life where Jesus is calling me to trust and follow Him more fully today?*

Day 3 — The Physician for the Sick

Key Verse:

“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.” —
Matthew 9:12

Reflection:

Jesus did not come for people who think they have no need for Him. He came for sinners.

Sin is not merely making a mistake or falling short of our own standards. Sin separates us from God and leaves us in desperate need of His forgiveness. We cannot heal ourselves spiritually. We cannot repair our relationship with God through enough good works, religious activity, or personal effort.

We need the Physician.

And Jesus does not merely diagnose our sickness. He provides the cure. At the cross, He took our sin upon Himself. Through His death and resurrection, He won forgiveness and life for us.

That means repentance is not something to fear. Confession is not an admission that God should reject us. Instead, it is the honest recognition that we need the Savior—and the joyful reception of His forgiveness.

Today, you don't have to pretend you're spiritually healthy. You can come to Jesus exactly as you are.

Prayer:

Jesus, I confess that I need You. Forgive my sins, renew my heart, and help me trust completely in Your grace. Amen.

Day 4 — Mercy, Not Self-Righteousness

Key Verse:

“I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”
— Matthew 9:13

Reflection:

It is easy to look at another person and reduce them to a label: sinner, outsider, difficult person, political opponent, failure, or “one of those people.”

But Jesus calls us to see people differently.

He does not ignore sin. Mercy does not mean pretending that sin doesn't matter. Jesus Himself takes sin seriously enough to die for it. But mercy means seeing the person behind the sin and caring about what happens to them.

Jesus showed this mercy to Matthew. He ate with sinners. He welcomed people others rejected. And ultimately, He went to the cross for sinners—including us.

Because we have received mercy, we are called to extend mercy.

Who is someone you have reduced to a label? Who have you stopped seeing as a person who needs God's grace?

Today, ask God to replace judgment and indifference with a heart that sees people as He sees them: people who need the same Savior we do.

Application:

Pray for one person you tend to dismiss or avoid. Ask God to help you see them with Christlike mercy.

Day 5 — Just Jesus

Key Verse:

“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” — Matthew 9:13

Reflection:

Jesus challenged the religious leaders because they had turned faith into something more complicated than God's grace. Instead of trusting God, they had added layer after layer of requirements.

Jesus came to bring something radically different: **forgiveness through Him.**

The Gospel is not Jesus plus enough good works. It is not Jesus plus the right spiritual experience. It is not Jesus plus proving that we are worthy.

It is Jesus.

Jesus fulfilled what we could never fulfill. He lived the perfect life we could not live. He died the death our sins deserved. He rose again, defeating death and securing forgiveness and eternal life for everyone who trusts in Him.

That means your hope does not rest on how well you performed today. It rests on Christ.

You may stumble. You may fail. You may carry regret from yesterday. But Jesus continues to call you back to Himself.

You are seen. You are forgiven. You belong to Christ.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, keep me from trusting in myself or my accomplishments. Help me rest completely in Your finished work, Your forgiveness, and Your promise of eternal life. Amen.

SEEING PEOPLE LIKE JESUS

Small Group Discussion — Matthew 9:9–17

Opening Icebreaker:

Have you ever been surprised by someone's story after getting to know them? What did you learn?

Read: Matthew 9:9–17

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick... For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." — Matthew 9:12–13

1. JESUS SEES BEYOND THE LABEL

Matthew was a tax collector—despised, distrusted, and viewed as a traitor. Yet Jesus didn't simply see "a tax collector." He saw a person who needed God's mercy.

We can easily do the same thing today. We can reduce people to their politics, past mistakes, reputation, appearance, occupation, or lifestyle. But every person is God's creation and every person needs the same Savior.

Supporting verses:

- Genesis 1:27 — Every person is created in God's image.
- Romans 3:23–24 — All have sinned, yet are justified freely by God's grace.
- 1 Samuel 16:7 — God looks at the heart.

Discuss:

1. What labels do we sometimes put on people?
2. Who might be easy for you to dismiss or avoid?
3. How does remembering that everyone is a sinner in need of grace change the way we see others?

2. JESUS CALLS SINNERS TO FOLLOW HIM

Jesus said to Matthew, "**Follow me.**" Matthew responded by leaving his old life and following Jesus.

Following Jesus doesn't mean we earn God's forgiveness by becoming better people. It means that having been forgiven by Christ, we are called to live a new life of repentance and faith.

Supporting verses:

- Ephesians 2:8–9 — We are saved by grace through faith, not by works.
- 1 John 1:9 — God faithfully forgives and cleanses those who confess their sins.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 — In Christ, we are a new creation.

Discuss:

1. What do you think Matthew had to leave behind to follow Jesus?
2. Is there something Jesus may be calling you to surrender or change?
3. How does God's forgiveness give us freedom to begin again?

3. JESUS DESIRES MERCY, NOT SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jesus told the Pharisees, “**Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’**”

The Pharisees were focused on who was worthy to be around Jesus. Jesus was focused on reaching sinners with forgiveness.

Mercy doesn't mean calling sin good. Biblical mercy recognizes the seriousness of sin while caring enough about people to point them toward Christ.

Supporting verses:

- Micah 6:8 — God calls His people to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with Him.
- Galatians 6:1–2 — Restore others gently and bear one another's burdens.
- Colossians 3:12–13 — Put on compassion, kindness, humility, and forgiveness.

Discuss:

1. What is the difference between showing mercy and approving of someone's sin?
2. How can we speak truth while still treating people with compassion?
3. Where might God be calling you to show greater mercy this week?

THIS WEEK

Pray for one person you might normally overlook or avoid. Ask God to help you see that person as someone Christ loves and for whom Christ died. Look for one opportunity to show genuine mercy, kindness, or care.

Remember

Jesus doesn't call us because we are worthy. He calls us because He is merciful.

We don't earn His forgiveness. **We receive it by grace through faith in Christ.** And having received His mercy, we are sent to extend that mercy to others.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for seeing us—not merely for our failures, our past, or the labels others place on us, but as people who need Your mercy. Thank You for dying for our sins and giving us forgiveness and new life through faith in You. Forgive us for the times we have judged, ignored, or objectified others. Give us eyes to see people as You see them, hearts that show mercy, and courage to speak Your truth with love. Help us follow You faithfully and point others to Your grace. In Your holy name, Amen.