JESUS' PERSPECTIVE OF THE LOST DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 9:9-13

1	Wh	Matthew 9:9-13, we see Jesus' perspective on the needs of those around him. What is the greatest need of mankind? What is a sinner? nat does the Bible say about those who are lost in their sins? Discuss as a group what you would say if you were explaining who is a sinner d the effects of sin to someone. Interact with Bible verses in your explanation.
2		ink about why Matthew responded to Jesus' call. Read the passage again through the lens that Matthew is telling his own story. What nds out to you when viewing the story that way?
	O ₀	Jesus said, "Follow me." and Matthew followed. (Matt. 9:9) What did Matthew leave behind? What have you had to leave behind to follow Jesus?
	O°	How would Matthew's former life as a tax collector have impacted his days as one of Jesus' followers?
	O ₀	. What do you need to remember about how God can use your story as you follow Jesus with others? Read 1 Timothy 1:13-17
3	Rea ed	ad Luke 18:9-14. This parable reinforces Jesus' point from Matthew 9:9-13. In Luke 18:9 it says that Jesus told this parable "to some who trust in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt."
		Read Matthew 9:13. What can guard us from falling into the same dangerous trap of trusting in ourselves for righteousness and treating others with contempt?
		In Matthew 9, Jesus encounters opposition for the first time in His public ministry. Look over the rest of the chapter. What are the forms of opposition to Jesus that surface in chapter 9? (Look for four).
		What is Matthew showing us in both how Jesus acts and how the Pharisee's oppose Jesus' actions? Think of Matthew's overall message of Jesus ultimate authority as King.
		How can we avoid aligning ourselves with opposition to Jesus? What needs to change about how we view church life or how we interact with the lost so that we are not in danger of echoing the words of the Pharisees with our choices? In what ways do you need to be more submisive to the merciful and marious binadom and rule of Jesus?

4	What is most uncomfortable about Jesus' actions in Matthew 9:9-13? Why is that? What fears does a passage like this surface? How do you need to respond to Jesus' actions?
5	Jesus said in Matthew 9:13, "Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice"." Jesus is quoting Hosea 6:6.
	What are some ways that we can practically choose mercy over sacrifice? How should our lives and relationships change?
	Which do you struggle with more—accepting God's mercy for yourself or extending His mercy to others?
6	How do you need to grow as a person/family that cultivates a spirit of biblical hospitality, especially to the "outsider"? What are some ideas for your community group? The church as a whole?
	Take time to pray as a group for those that you know are lost around you.
7	How might Jesus' calling of Matthew give us hope for unbelievers we know that seem to be unreachable with the gospel?
	What do you think compelled Matthew to listen to Jesus and respond to His command to follow him? Consult Matthew 5:3, Matt 11:28, John 7:37, Matt 19:26-27 for help.
	What did Matthew do to cause Jesus to reach out to Him with His mercy and grace? ————————————————————————————————
	How does the story of Matthew's conversion offer hope to us as we share the gospel? ———————————————————————————————————