

**SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
**JANUARY 28-29, 2012**  
**JESUS THE CHALLENGER**



1. What is something you want to give God thanks for this week?
2. Read Matthew 9:9. Tax collectors in Jesus' day were generally greedy and unfair. When Matthew started following Jesus, what do you think he had to leave behind?
3. Read Matthew 9:10-11. What type of people do you think the "sinners" were? Why do you think Jesus ate with them? How do you think the tax collectors and "sinners" felt about Jesus eating with them? Privileged? Unworthy? Excited? Awkward? How would you feel? Why?
4. Why were the tax collectors so concerned about Jesus eating with certain people?
5. Read Matthew 9:12-13. Has there been a time when you (or someone you know) didn't see a doctor, because you didn't want to admit you were sick? What happened?
6. Jesus says he's not come to call the righteous, but sinners. Does this exclude the Pharisees from God's Kingdom? Why or why not? Does this exclude you?
7. Why do you think it is so hard to admit we're broken and sinful and in need of a Savior? Read 1 John 1:8-10. What is wrong with saying we have not sinned? What must we do to receive God's forgiveness? Do you think Matthew was willing to confess his sins? What about the Pharisees?
8. Who is a "Matthew" in your life—someone who society looks down upon and really needs Jesus' love? How could you reach out to that person this week? How does knowing you are a sinner help you extend love to others?
9. Share prayer requests and close in prayer as a group.

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### **THE STORY CONTINUES...**

Jesus begins His ministry by claiming to be King...to be in charge. He goes around teaching what it looks like to live with Him as King. Jesus also demonstrates that He is in charge by showing his power over disease, evil spirits, and even the laws of nature. This causes quite the stir, especially when Jesus begins to challenge some of the religious practices and attitudes of the day. When Jesus breaks religious protocol to show hurting people His love, the religious leaders start asking questions.

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