



"The Cheater"
06/13/21

Matthew, the Gospel Writer
...was also Matthew the Cheating Tax Collector

The Repeats (required)

They are the same, but *WE* change, so please discuss these with your group

- [Share the announcements (on FB thread) with your group]
- At mc3, God Moments are a chance for us to *be intentional* about noticing what God is doing in our lives—try to use your week to notice these moments to share in Pr'me. Go around your group and share your God Moments: how have you seen God working, either in your life or in the life of another over the past week?
- Is there anything that you want to share that has stood out to you so far from the current Point series?

The Review (optional)

Use this section only if you want to review for those who were not in the Point

- Have someone explain the Point in their own words.*
- What object lesson or illustration was used to communicate the Point this week? How did this apply to the Point?*
- Have someone summarize (but not necessarily read) the main Bible passage/story from the Point: **Matthew 9:9-13**.*
- How did this Bible passage teach the Point?*

**someone who was in the Point may need to explain this*

The Reflection (required)

Discuss these to go deeper, *and more personal*, into applying the Point

- Have you ever purchased something that ended up costing much more than you thought it would? Share the story.
- In Matthew 9:9-13, we see that Matthew (aka Levi) was a Jew who worked for the Roman empire as a cheating tax collector! When Jesus called Matthew to be His disciple, Jesus was accused of spending time with “sinners”. To be clear, let’s look at how God sees sinners:
 - ***Sin Is Universal*** Read Romans 3:23; 5:12,18-19
 - The Pharisees called Matthew & his friends “those sinners”, but according to these verses, who is a sinner?
 - ***Sin Is Personal*** Read Romans 3:9-12; 1 Timothy 1:15-16; 1 John 1:10
 - Do you consider yourself or others to be a “good person”? What do these passages *actually* say about being “good”?
 - ***Sin Is Punishable*** Read Romans 6:23; James 5:19-20
 - In our culture, we don’t like to talk about consequences, but to ignore them would be even worse! What is the consequence/result of our sin? What is the danger of ignoring this?
 - ***Sin Is Forgivable*** Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - Despite being a sinner destined for hell, what is the hope that Jesus offers? According to Ephesians 2:8-9, how do we receive that hope? [by *believing* in Jesus; not by earning it]
- Despite Matthew’s past as a tax collector, God still used him! Have your group explain these passages of what God did though Matthew
 - ***He was an Associate of “the Sinners”!*** Read Luke 5:29
 - Have you ever considered that God may want to use *your* past as a unique opportunity to reach people for Jesus that others can’t?
 - ***He was an Apostle of the Church!*** Read Matthew 10:2-4; Acts 1:12-14
 - ***He was an Author of the Bible!*** Read Matthew 17:24,27; 18:24
- *B-Sides* is all about God using people despite their failures, so each week we’re going to ask a similar question: How does God using Matthew despite his past, make you feel about God in *your* life?