

## STBC IMPACT Bible Study: "I'D RATHER BE..."

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

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**Our Opening Thoughts:** One of the hardest things for many men to do is to admit that they are sick. The next hardest thing for some men to do is to go see a doctor. And even when men see symptoms of sickness, some will not seek help. The truth is **no one can get healed being in denial**. The same is true about our souls.

Remember when **former President Trump** said that he does not regret never asking God for forgiveness, partially because he says he doesn't have much to apologize for? Trump said, "I like to be good. I don't like to have to ask for forgiveness. And I am good. **I don't do a lot of things that are bad**. I try to do nothing that is bad."

Being in denial about our soul's sicknesses will keep us from getting healed by God. Thankfully, Jesus came to heal us **ALL** from **ALL** of our diseases (**Psalm 103:3**) which were caused by mankind's fall into sin. Jesus not only heals us from physical diseases, but He also heals from emotional, mental, and spiritual sicknesses. Personally, I have struggled with the diseases of anger, fear, resentment, pride, lust and much more, but Jesus has healed me and is healing me from **ALL** these diseases!

**Our Text:** **Matthew 9:9 – 13** (Mark 2:13 – 17; Luke 5:27 – 32)

**Our Focus:** "I'd Rather Be Sick Than Well."

### **Our Group Questions:**

1. *What's more important: physical healing or spiritual healing?*
2. *Why do you think Jesus called Matthew to follow Him?*
3. *Why do you think Matthew left everything (**Luke 5:28**) and followed Jesus?*
4. *Why do you think Matthew felt it was ok to host a "great feast" (**Luke 5:29**), i.e., a party, for a rabbi that had "sinners" attend it?*
5. *Why do you think Jesus accepted the invitation to come to the party?*
6. *How could Jesus, who was called a friend of sinners (**Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34**), sit down with sinners without condemning them or condoning their behavior?*
7. *How did Jesus get the false reputation of being a drunkard and a glutton?*  
**Matthew 11:18 – 19**

8. *What do you think was going through the disciples' minds at this party?*
9. *Why were the scribes and Pharisees watching the party going on at Levi's house?*
10. *Why do you think the Pharisees questioned the disciples about who Jesus was eating with instead of asking Jesus directly?*
11. *What wisdom should we have when sitting with sinners?*
12. *What is the danger of Christians being "overly righteous?" **Ecclesiastes 7:16***
13. *Who did Jesus say was entering the kingdom ahead of the Pharisees and scribes? **Matthew 21:28 – 32***
14. *Who are today's "prostitutes and tax collectors" in our society?*
15. *What do you think today's sinners typically say about Christians?*

**Our Conclusion:** Jesus found Matthew, a successful man by worldly standards, and called him to follow Him. Matthew left everything to follow Jesus, and apparently had no regrets. Matthew, like his friends, were sinners who were spiritually sick. Thankfully, Jesus came for the purpose of healing them just like He does with us.

The only way to have a relationship with Jesus Christ is to acknowledge our soul's sicknesses. **We should admit to God (and each other; James 4:16) that we're sick and get healed, rather than acting like we're well and remaining sick.**

Once again, we see that humility is the gateway to experiencing and benefitting from the grace of God. Grace is the only way the last can become first!

**Our Small Group Questions:**

1. *Where were you when Jesus found you and called you to follow Him?*
2. *Be honest. What shocks you, stretches you, or even offends you about this passage?*
3. *Who are "the sick people" in your life you need to sit down with?*