

Introduction: So let's begin with:

A Meal with Matthew

Taken from Matthew 9:9-13 & Mark 2:13-17.

Mat 9:11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, **Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?**

I. THE NEEDY WILL SEEK CHRIST - *"They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."* (Mat 9:12) *"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* (Mark 2:17)

- A. Christ Began to minister from Peter's Home where he stayed with Peter, his wife and Andrew, James and John after he had taught them how to fish. During this stay, they would learn how to fish for men.
1. **Demonic was healed** in the Synagogue on a Sabbath. How strange that it wasn't appropriate to heal someone in God's house. We've had people leave the church for the same reason. But, that didn't stop the needy.
 2. When they heard that **Jesus was in the House** the crowds began to gather daily at the door of Peter's house. Jesus didn't turn them away. He didn't tell them to wait till the next service. He preached to them and healed them of their sickness.
 3. The press was too great for some in need. But, they didn't turn back. Four men tore the roof off the house to get their friend to Jesus.
 4. While they were there, Peter's wife came down with a fever and she told Jesus immediately.

Mar 1:31 And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them. **She prepared them some food.**

- B. **Dining is a Ministry:** Nobody questions if preaching, healing and delivering is a ministry. But, let a church start having too many meals with one another and you get accused of being too worldly.
1. Many followed Jesus after he fed the multitudes in the wilderness, not because of the miracle but because they did eat of the loaves and were filled. (John 6:26) Some were just hungry but they weren't hungry enough to resort to cannibalism - eat his flesh and drink his blood (John 6:55)
 2. A resort might be a popular place to take a vacation or have some fun. But, when used as a verb it has a different meaning: **To turn to and adopt (a strategy or course of action, especially a disagreeable or undesirable one) so as to resolve a difficult situation.**

Mar 2:13 And he went forth again by the sea side; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them.

3. Jesus is about to take his ministry on a new level to reach out to those who don't think they have need of anything. So He reaches out to Matthew:

Mar 2:14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.

II. SOME MUST BE SOUGHT OUT

- A. Levi was eager to follow Jesus more for curiosity's sake rather than a sense of need. He was like his boss, Zacchaeus, who was the Chief of the Publicans and very rich. Zacchaeus was a Big Little Man because he had to climb a sycamore tree to get a glimpse of Jesus. But, Jesus came to where he was and wanted to eat with him - Salvation has come to his house today.

1. Levi and Zacchaeus were sinners who discovered their need for Christ over a meal with the Master.
2. An extra benefit of this ministry was a Bigger House than Peter - More room for the needy.

Mar 2:15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, **and they followed him.**

- B. Riches and Righteousness blind a person from seeing their need.

1. Parable of the Sower: The Deceitfulness of Riches can choke the word (Mt 13:22 & Mar 4:19)
2. The Rich Man and Lazarus: Fared sumptuously every day but Lazarus laid by the gate hungry, full of sores and dogs licked his sores. The rich man considered himself a good man. He fed Lazarus with the crumbs from his table. But, in death he discovered it was he who had been dressed in the filthy rags of self righteousness. He had been subsisting on the crumbs of good works rather than the true riches of heaven.
3. None righteous - no not one.

CONCLUSION: The answer to the question, "Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?"

Mat 9:12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.