

"Dinner at Your House"

September 4-5, 2021

This provides about one hour of focused reading and discussion. Use the portions you find most helpful. If you have a prayer need, ask a friend or two here to pray with you, and to support you in prayer this week.

1. What about those **tax collectors**?

- Read **Matthew 9:9-13, Luke 5:4-11, Psalm 41:4, Titus 3:5, Acts 2:38-39, and Romans 3:22-24**. Who is in need of Jesus' salvation?

2. This risky **invitation**

- Many people feel too corrupt for God to save them. How can we help them realize that God sees them and loves them?
- God develops people as they follow him. What are some ideas that we can share to help people understand that God continues to refine us? Read **Proverbs 17:3, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, and Romans 12:2**.

3. The power of being **present** in awkward places

- Jesus wanted a connection with the people who needed a savior most. Though he related with them, he did not compromise his morals or his message. Jesus is our model. Read **1 Corinthians 5:9-12 and 10:27**.
- How separate should I be from the world? When I know I am headed for a worldly situation, how can I prepare for it?

4. The religious **syndrome**

- In the negative sense of the word -rules, judgment, criticism- how "religious" am I?
- Read **Isaiah 65:5 and Mark 12:38-40**.
- Will I offer grace instead of judgment to others? How can I offer a merciful response?

5. We must remain passionate to our **true purpose**

- Read **Hosea 6:6, Mark 12:32-34, 1 Samuel 15:22, Proverbs 21:3, John 13:34-35, Matthew 5:13-16, and Matthew 28:19-20**.
- What do these verses say about some of our responsibilities as followers of Christ?

Consider:

- How "**religious**" am I? How will I know?
- Who **invites me in**? Someone said yes to you...
- What is my **next step**? How can I move forward out of legalism? Am I open to God's refining in my life; am I willing to let him expose areas of exclusivity or pride?

Close with **prayer** and a theme-related **song**.

- "**You Alone Can Rescue**" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYcjz30R3G8>

- **“Redeemed”** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cf-IsNVcNLc>
- **“What a Beautiful Name”** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE>