

Where's Your Chair?

St Matthew



The law of your mouth is dearer to me than a hoard of gold and silver.
Psalm 119:72

Praising:

Praise, Lord, for him whose gospel your human life declared, who, worldly gains forsaking, your path of suffering shared. From all false love of riches, like Matthew, Lord, we pray that we may be delivered, and follow you today.

Reading:

Matthew 9:9-13
An unexpected guest

Jesus singles out for selection someone who was as beyond the pale religiously as could be imagined. As a tax collector, Matthew was in the pay of the hated Roman occupiers and so as unpopular with his own people as with the Jewish hierarchy. With only fellow tax collectors and sinners for friendship, Matthew

suddenly finds himself chosen by the man whose name and reputation everyone is talking about. More than that though, in a society heavily defined by whom you were and weren't prepared to eat with, Jesus visits Matthew at home for a meal. Responding to the holier-than-thou, judgmental reaction of the Pharisees, Jesus uses a quotation from the prophet Hosea to challenge a conventional religious idea about what God really requires of his faithful people. Correctly offered ritual doesn't get a look in.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord help us to grasp the spiritual power of hospitality

- to receive and welcome the stranger with the love Christ receives and welcomes us
- to share our homes, our tables and our time as though we were giving to Jesus
- to demonstrate by kindness the universal and unconditional grace of the cross

Father: if I hadn't experienced your generosity in how others treated me, I would never have realised the power of every small word and gesture to reveal the Lord Jesus to the world. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 21 September 2016