

Text: Matthew 9:9-13 (NAS)

⁹And as Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax office and he said to him, "Follow Me!" And he rose, and followed him. ¹⁰And it happened that as he was reclining at the table in the house; behold, many tax gatherers and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax gatherers and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means, 'I desire compassion and not sacrifice, 'for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

1. The Gospel is for those who are hurting. Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people. Luke 4:16-19 (GNT)
2. Jesus has obtained complete deliverance for all who will believe in him. Surely he has borne our griefs - sickness, weakness, and distress - and carried our sorrows and pain (of punishment). Yet we ignorantly considered him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God (as if with leprosy). But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our guilt and iniquities. The chastisement needful to obtain peace and well being for us was upon him, and with the stripes that wounded him we are healed and made whole. Isaiah 53: 4-5 (Amplified)
3. Jesus has commissioned the church to proclaim the Good News of deliverance:
¹⁵And he said to them, Go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news (the gospel) to every creature (of the whole human race.) Mark 16: 15 (Amplified)
4. The church must reach out to everyone and share with them that there is deliverance in Jesus for all of life's problems.

".....Hurry out to the streets and alleys of the town, and bring back the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame." Soon the servant said, "Your order has been carried out, sir, but there is room for more." So

the master said to the servant, "Go out to the country roads and lanes and make people come in, so that my house will be full."
Luke 14: 21c thru 23 (GNT)

Conclusion

²⁵On one occasion an expert in the Law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶"What is written in the Law," he replied, "How do you read it?" ²⁷He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸"You have answered correctly" Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." ²⁹But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰In reply Jesus said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So, too a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled came where the man was, and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'" ³⁶"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷The expert in the Law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do like wise." Luke 10: 25-37 (NIV)

A Question for the Church

Will you be a Good Samaritan and reach out to a hurting family member, friend, neighbor, coworker, or anyone God places in your life who needs ministry?