

Jesus Liked to Party

2026-02-08 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Matthew 9

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Jesus got accused of being a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Why? Because he kept eating dinner with the wrong people. Pastor Matt's point: the table was not a break from Jesus' method. It was his method. Our world has mostly lost the ability to sit at a table for three hours, and busyness and the fear of being seen up close are the two reasons we skip it. Worth remembering: out of all the pictures Jesus could have chosen for eternity, he chose a feast.

To get started

- Who has fed you recently, and what was the meal like?

Looking back at the message

The three-hour dinner story is a good way in. Ask about capacity, not conviction.

- 1 Pastor Matt described a culture that ate together for three hours before anyone taught anything. What was your reaction to that?
- 2 Pastor Matt said he wants to grow our capacity for real community, the kind that lingers at a table. What limits your capacity most: time, energy, or something else?
- 3 Pastor Matt was clear that eating with people far from God has guardrails: you bring your convictions to the table with you. Why do you think he said that so directly? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Matthew 9:10-13 and Luke 7:33-34 aloud together.

- 4 Read Matthew 9:10-11. Where is Jesus, whose house is it, and who else is at the table?
- 5 What exactly do the Pharisees object to, and who do they ask about it?
- 6 In Luke 7:34, Jesus' enemies sum him up as a glutton and a drunkard. What does it tell you that this was their complaint about him?
- 7 Matthew 9:12-13 is Jesus' answer. Who does he say he came for?

Bringing it home

Busyness is the safe answer. Push gently past it to the other one, exposure.

- 8 Pastor Matt named two reasons we avoid the table: busyness, and not wanting to be seen up close. Which one is closer to the truth for you?
- 9 In that culture, eating with someone made a statement. What is the closest thing we have to that today?
- 10 Who would feel awkward at your table, and what makes it awkward?
- 11 What is one meal you could actually host or join in the next month?

The group together

This one has an obvious action. Do not let the group leave without naming it.

- 12 Pastor Matt pointed out that most of the Bible was written to groups, not individuals. What changes if we read it that way?
- 13 What would it honestly take for this group to eat together more often?
- 14 Out of every picture available, Jesus described eternity as a feast. What does that tell you about what God is like?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Who will you invite to a table this month, and what has been stopping you?

You might pray about

- For a table wide enough for people we would not naturally choose
- For those who are lonely and would not say so
- For the courage to be known up close
- For gratitude for the feast we are already invited to