

**CALL TO PRAYER**

*Begin by calling upon God:* In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment, and listen attentively to this week's passage.



**THE WORD OF GOD**

**Matthew 9:9-13**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the **customs** post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many **tax collectors** and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The **Pharisees** saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire **mercy**, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord

**FAITH SHARING**

**Questions of the Week**

*Choose one*

1. Share a time when you felt Jesus call you?
2. Jesus said he came, not to call the righteous, but sinners. How can you extend the welcoming call of Jesus to those around you?
3. Appearances were the top priority of the Pharisees and they could not accept anyone who mingled with the poor and the broken. Think of a time when you found yourself caught up in "keeping up with the Joneses." How did you recognize the "Pharisee" in yourself and what did you do about it?



*Thanks to the Safeguard the Children Committee for developing these questions.*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

God of wisdom and love, source of all good, send your Spirit to teach us your truth and guide our actions in your way of peace. We ask this, as we ask all things, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**GOSPEL WORD SEARCH**

R P G A M B R V M S  
 P O N N D E Y A E E  
 M H T P I X R C V L  
 A S A C X N I C M P  
 T I X R E F A B Y I  
 T C O Q I L J E K C  
 H K U R M S L J M S  
 E S C A P A E O D I  
 W A X T M L F E C D  
 S M N R U B C C C Z  
 F O H F P N L U T E  
 S N A I C I S Y H P  
 W P F U T T S B X M  
 O W Q A O U D K J N  
 L S X M S T A B L E  
 L B S E H J I U N O  
 O M J J X D O Y D E  
 F R I G H T E O U S  
 A S R E N N I S M E  
 D T L V W Z S O L A

COLLECTOR	MEANING	SICK
CUSTOMS	MERCY	SINNERS
DISCIPLES	PHARISEE	TABLE
FOLLOW	PHYSICIANS	TAX
JESUS	RIGHTEOUS	
MATTHEW	SACRIFICE	

**GOSPEL GLOSSARY**

The **customs** post was the table or booth where taxes were collected.

**Tax collectors** made sure people gave money to support the Roman government. They were not always honest. Since they worked for the Romans who controlled the Jewish lands, they were hated and considered sinners.

The **Pharisees** were Jews who tried to remain faithful to Moses' law, even in the smallest acts of daily life. Jesus criticized them for too severely judging those who don't live like they do.

**Mercy** is forgiveness, compassion and love.