

Thrive
All People Matter to God

I. Introduction

- A. The Church does not exist for the sake of the people who are already inside!
- B. God's desire is that the human race should thrive!
- C. John 10:30 (NAS) *"I and the Father are one."*
- D. People who were the farthest from God flocked to Jesus the most!
- E. Acts 2:47 (NAS) *They were praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*
- F. All people matter to God!
- G. It's us versus them.
- H. When it comes to God, who is "us"? And, who is "them"?
- I. "Everybody's welcome."
- J. Matthew 9:9 (NLT) *As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.*
- K. "Sinners and tax collectors"
- L. Tax collectors were so despised that even the "sinners" would be offended if they were lumped together with "tax collectors"!
- M. Matthew was just one ask away from the Kingdom of God!
- N. Matthew 9:10 (NLT) *Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.*
- O. Because you never know who is just one ask away.
- P. Matthew 9:11-13 (NLT) ¹¹ *But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"* ¹² *When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do."* ¹³ *Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."*
- Q. "I came because God doesn't divide the human race up into us and them. My Father wants everybody to be "us." My Father loves everybody more than you could ever imagine."

R. Luke 15:1-2 (NLT) ¹ *Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach.* ² *This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!*

S. Everybody is welcome here!

T. We have a "Matthew's party" here every single weekend!

U. There's no "us" and "them"! There's just Jesus and His friends, and the people Jesus wants to be His friends!

V. Nothing transforms your experience at church as much as when you bring a friend, or a loved one, who needs to meet Jesus.

W. When we gather together on the weekends, will you look at everything through the lens of "Everybody's welcome here"?

II. Conclusion