



Introduction to the Depth Chart

READ: MATTHEW 9:9-13

Tax collectors were seen as the lowest of the low in Jesus' time. Colluders with the Roman occupiers, traitors to their own people, and often extortionists, they were considered the worst of sinners. That's Matthew. Yet, Jesus called Matthew to follow Him - and Matthew accepts.

Matthew's life was forever changed, and he was unable to keep it to himself. He welcomes his friends to meet Jesus and his disciples as well. By facilitating this encounter around the dinner table, he extended the invitation of grace to them as well.

When Pharisees criticize Jesus for eating with sinners, he responds sharply: "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew's story shows us that Jesus desires not only to transform our lives but also to reach our friends through us as well.

REFLECT

- What type of friends did Matthew invite to spend time with Jesus?
- How do you think Matthew felt inviting his friends to meet Jesus?
- How do you feel about inviting your friends, as they are, to encounter Christ?

TAKE ACTION: BUILD YOUR DEPTH CHART

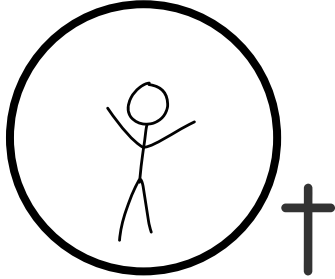
Matthew thought intentionally about which of his friends he wanted to meet Jesus. One way of imitating that intentionality is using a "Depth Chart" - a visual tool to help us to accompany and pray for others in their walk with Jesus. Try thinking of friends in the following categories:

1. Those that do not have Jesus in their lives
2. Those that have Jesus in their life, but not as the center. Jesus is simply a part of their life like work, friends, relationships, school, or activities.
3. Those who make Christ the center of their lives (these can support you in efforts to bring others to Christ and provide fellowship!)

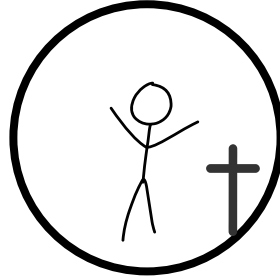
Take a couple of minutes to first pray, then write names of friends, co-workers, classmates, teammates, and others who you want to know Christ more deeply. Use this chart throughout the time in Growing Discipleship to pray for them and make invitations (for example, to Bible Study, a ministry event, Mass, a meal, or an activity as simple as pick up basketball).



Introduction to the Depth Chart



Christ is not in their Life



Christ is not in the Center of their Life



Christ is in the Center of their Life

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