

SERMON GUIDE:

I. Introduction

- A. This series, *Kingdom Presence*, is a collection of moments with Jesus in the Word.
 - 1. Catch Up With The Series on [YouTube](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Spotify](#)
 - 2. [Hebrews 1:1-3](#) tells us God is speaking to us today, through His Son.
 - 3. We recently dug into some of Jesus' famous [teachings](#) and parables. Now we turn our attention to the way He interacted with normal people
 - 4. As we meditate on moments with Jesus, we'll find that He is the expression of God's heart for us – And we'll gain instruction on HOW to live, since God's Spirit shapes us to be more like Jesus every day
- B. Many of us struggle with feelings of being unqualified or unworthy to receive God's love, so today we're looking at a moment where Jesus reveals to us God's heart for the unqualified, and unworthy...
- C. Read [Mark 2:13-17](#)

II. Unpacking The Story

- A. Jesus had just returned to His home base... Capernaum, and the crowd was crazy around Him. Everyone was excited for all that He was doing. In the midst of the chaos, Jesus looked over to see an unexpected person
- B. Matthew (Levi) was sitting at His tax collector's booth, but Jesus saw him... and called Him to become a disciple.
- C. Matthew was the wrong pick for a disciple.
 - 1.
 - 2. But Jesus sees Him... despite the crowd... and calls to Him specifically

III. God's Heart for the Unworthy

- A. A Banquet of sinners follows

- B. Jesus flipped the script... reset the rules on what makes a person acceptable to God... welcome to be with God...
1. It's not anything we have done... good or bad...
 2. It's not achievements or accolades or the identity labels of the world
 3. It's only the response of faith when He calls, "Come Follow Me."
- C. Matthew joins the Disciples... not exactly the A Team
1. God seems to prefer using the unqualified... from Abraham and Sarah to Moses to Gideon, to Ruth and David and Esther... it just keeps going
 2. In [Acts 4](#)... those same religious leaders were trying to figure out how the Disciples were performing miracles and we see something important
 - a. They noted that they were "unschooled, ordinary men"
 - b. *AND that they had been with Jesus***
 - c. That's what makes the difference... they responded in faith when He called them
 - d. Matthew responded instantly and wholeheartedly to Jesus
- D. *** We are not qualified by a perfect record or training, but by responding in faith to Jesus when He calls us to be with Him.
1. Jesus reveals the heart of God for you and I... He calls us when we're not worthy...
 2. No matter what you've done... or how unqualified you might feel... God wants you.
 3. He loves us just the same today, and just the same as He loves any amazing Christian we can think of, though we sometimes struggle to believe that
 4. Because we live in a world that is bought in on self-sufficiency... on earning it and making ourselves lovable... striving for perfection.
 5. And we all know we can't get ourselves to perfection (see [Romans 3:23](#))
 6. God knows we could never make ourselves perfect and righteous, so He came to do it for us... in Jesus Christ.

7. [Ephesians 2:1-10](#) reminds us that we were all dead in our sins, and God chose to give us new life in Christ. There's nothing we can do to earn it, it is a sheer gift of His grace.
8. There's a trustworthy old saying that says: "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called."
9. It's not about our worthiness... it's about Him being worthy. We simply respond in faith to what He is doing.

E. What will we listen to?

1. The accusations we hear... from the enemy... or others... or ourselves?
2. Or... the voice of the one who loves us and calls us to Himself

IV. Live It

- A. So, take a moment to consider if you have felt unworthy, or unqualified...
- B. Maybe that's something you're feeling currently. Take some time to write down what you are feeling.
- C. These feelings could come on because of something someone has said to you, or the way someone has treated you? They could come on because of a fault or sin in your life? They could come on because we live in a culture that's constantly showing us how great everyone else is.
 1. Maybe take another moment to examine the sources of those feelings
 2. A hugely helpful exercise (that we sometimes leave behind in children's church for some reason) is Scripture Memorization... memorizing what God's Word says. For each of the sources of feelings of unworthiness and inadequacy, there is a promise that we can be holding to in God's Word. Here's a [helpful article](#) if you want to know more of what God thinks about you and start memorizing some promises to declare.

V. More to engage/study:

1. Something worth meditating on: Luke's further exploration with Tax Collectors: [Luke 15](#), [Luke 18:9-14](#), [Luke 19:1-10](#)
2. Bible Project: [Redemption](#)