

# Matthew 9:10-13 (NKJV)

## Associating with Undesirables

10. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.
11. And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”
12. When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.
13. But go and learn what *this* means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’<sup>1</sup> For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

- **Blame it all on my roots  
I showed up in boots  
And ruined your black tie affair**
- **And I saw the surprise  
And the fear in his eyes  
When I took his glass of  
champagne**
- **The last one to know  
The last one to show  
I was the last one  
You thought you'd see there**
- **And I toasted you  
Said, honey, we may be  
through  
But you'll never hear me  
complain**

# Friends in Low Places

- 'Cause I've got friends in low places  
Where the whiskey drowns  
And the beer chases my blues away  
And I'll be okay
- I'm not big on social graces  
Think I'll slip on down to the oasis  
Oh, I've got friends in low places

# Friends in Low Places

## Associating with Undesirables

### The Setting (v10)

- Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, **many tax collectors** and **sinners** came and sat down with Him and His disciples.

Matthew 9:10 NKJV

### by which we mean...

- People with reputations
- Religious /Social Outcasts
- Undesirables- Despised  
Rejected -Written Off
- **Party Time** *Eating & Drinking*

Jesus and His Disciplines **COMFORT-ZONE**

# Friends In Low Places

Your-Comfort Zone

be it a *group* or an *individual*

- Who are you most **comfortable** associating with?
- Who are you most **uncomfortable** associating with?
- Who would you **never** want to be seen or associated with?
- How does your comfort zone **compare** to that of Jesus?

# Friends in Low Places

## Guilty By Association

### *Ruffled- Feathers*

11. And when the *Pharisees* saw *it*, they said to His disciples,  
“**Why** does your Teacher **eat** with tax collectors and sinners?”

Matthew 9:11 NKJV

### by upsetting the religious leaders...

1. **Implying** of course that Jesus had crossed over the line
2. **Implying** it's their **standard** of what is *acceptable* or *unacceptable* that counts?
3. Highlights the *danger of assuming* we're right and Jesus is wrong
4. Mixing with wrong crowd, and *by association* saying there sinful lifestyles were ok

# HAS JESUS GONE A STEP TOO FAR?

Associating with Undesirables



# Friends in Low Places

## The Pharisees- Viewpoint

*they saw...*

- Tax collectors and sinners
- People who **didn't** associate with
- People **beyond** redemption

## Jesus-Viewpoint

*he saw... (v12)*

- When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, “*Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick*” **Matthew 9:12 NKJV**
- “*Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do.*” NLT

**“I'm with those who need me the most”**

# Friends in Low Places

## Jesus-Reply (v13)

- But go and learn what *this* means:  
'I desire **mercy** and not sacrifice.  
(Hosea 6:6)
- For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”
- For I have come to call not those **who think** they are righteous, but those who **know** they are sinners.”

## What they got wrong

1. **Misplaced- Priorities**
2. **Lacked- Mercy**
3. **Assumed their attitude / response was correct.**



# Guilty by association

# Guilty By Association

- **Upsetting** the Religious leaders (*roughly feathers*).
- **Identity** *the sinners tax collectors and sinners*
- **Response** *The Religious crew couldn't handle it*
- **Wrong** kind of people
- **Separate** totally from those who need Him the most.
- **Refusing** to spend any time with them

# Friends in Low Places

## *The Marginalised*

- Who are **they** in today's society?
- How do we **view** and **relate** with *them*?
- In our opinion who is beyond redemption?*

## Applications

1. **Yes** "Sinners" need to **repent** but they also need to **know** they are loved by Jesus
2. They also need **Christians** to **spend time** with them .
3. Our **Motivation** is to bring **"Hope"** for **eternity** to them

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Friends in low places

**Do You Have Some?**

