September 21, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 9:9-13
As Jesus passed by, 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."

Our Scripture Reflection

Tax collectors were Jews who farmed out taxes from their fellow countrymen to both earn a living and to help subsidize the Roman army which held their nation in captivity. They were looked upon as traitors, and therefore, despised by their fellow Jews. It’s no wonder that the Pharisees take Jesus to task for accepting Matthew’s invitation to dine at his home. He had defiled Himself by breathing the same air as Matthew! But then Jesus quotes a proverb for the benefit of His antagonists: “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.” Matthew abandoned his rather lucrative job immediately when Jesus called him. Why? Because he was sick and tired of feeling sick and tired due to his sins and he knew Jesus could heal him. Ironically, Matthew because of his trust and humility is made well, but those pesky Pharisees remained miserably sick.
Food for your Journey

Someone confessed the problem he was having in getting people to forget his personal problems: "It's hard to bury your past when everybody's got a shovel."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Only You possess the power to forgive me, heal me and make me whole once again. Help me to empty myself completely before You, to hide nothing and to confess my sins. Forgive me, Lord, so that I may be free to live as the person You created and redeemed me to be. Amen