

Get Used to Different

Week Four

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. (Matthew 9:9, New Living Translation)

Jesus said, 'Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.' (Matthew 19:26, NLT)

But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with such scum?' (Matthew 9: 11, NLT)

You blind Pharisee!...What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity.' (Matthew 23:26-27, NLT 2nd Ed.)

Why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?... First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye. (Matthew 7:3-5, NLT 2nd Ed.)

1- Be open to conviction

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. (Psalm 139:23-24, NLT 2nd Ed.)

Every Scripture passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, and training them for a life that has God's approval.

(2 Timothy 3:16, God's Word)

Don't go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many advisers. (Proverbs 24:6, NLT 2nd Ed.)

2- Pursue relationships with those who are different than you.

The Pharisees saw this and asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

(Matthew 9:11, GW)

'Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.' (Matthew 1:23, NLT 2nd Ed.)

Jesus replied, 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.

(Matthew 22:37-40, NLT 2nd Ed.)

3- Serve those who are different than you.