**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. July 23, 2023**

**Matthew; An Unlikely Disciple**

Matthew 9:9-13

**Key Truth:** Jesus Christ intentionally sought out relationships with sinners to show them love and to call them to discipleship.

**News Flash:** If we are going to continue being a church that “Leads People To Follow Jesus Christ”, then we must be intentional, compassionate, loving, graceful, and truthful.

**Jesus Scandalous Grace:**

1. Jesus calls a known thief to become His disciple.

2. Jesus goes to dinner with known outcasts of society.

3. Jesus doesn’t care what the religious elite think.

**What Do We Learn:**

1. Jesus goes where sinners are to reach them with His

 love. Luke 19:1-10, John 4:7-10

2. Jesus wants to redeem people the society has thrown

 away. Luke 7:36-50

3. Jesus exemplified love and mercy through His actions.

4. Your past doesn’t have to determine your future in

 Jesus Christ. Romans 8:1

5. The church of Jesus Christ is a hospital for sick people

 who need to be healed and restored. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Pray for the strength and boldness of the Holy Spirit to be intentional in our relationships, to give ourselves to others as Jesus did, and to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Food For Thought:**

If we were to ask a random sample of people in our city to share what makes someone a Christian, what do you think they would say?

What is wrong with thinking that someone is a Christian because they grew up in church, went to a Christian event, or even prayed a prayer? In contrast to such assumptions, what, according to Scripture, makes someone a Christian?

Read Luke 7:36-50: How did the woman respond to Jesus? How did she demonstrate godly grief?

How did the Pharisee respond to her and Jesus?

How did Jesus respond to her? In what ways can you relate to this woman? To this Pharisee?

Who this week needs to hear the gospel from you and be invited to church? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_