

# **Sovereign Grace Church**

## **“Choices” outline**

**April 28, 2019**

### **Matthew 9: 9-17**

*This morning we return to our reflection upon the Gospel of Matthew. We have seen that Jesus' introduction of His ministry was not without controversy. The religious establishment of His day had their own developed view of what the promised Messianic Kingdom would be like....who would be included and who excluded. Jesus smashed those artificial barriers in inviting anyone who breathed to enter in! He did not look for religious accolades or recognition, superior education or family lineage. He did not exclude these sorts of things but He knew that all of them could be faked in so far as being testimonies to a genuine love for God and desire to glorify Him.*

*Jesus instead emphasized a persons heart condition over any outward appearances of righteousness. He made Himself available to all those who were truly seeking the truth and yearning to be delivered from their own false pretensions. The Pharisees and even John's disciples did not agree with this approach nor with Jesus' choices in seeking disciples. We will consider their concerns and Jesus' responses during this morning's message.*

#### **1. Jesus chooses Matthew v. 9**

- **Matthew the Tax-Man Cf., Zacchaeus in Lk 19: 1-10**
  
- **Matthew's Celebration v. 10**  
**Isa. 11: 3; Jn 7: 24**

#### **2. The Pharisees Objection v. 11**

- **Identification by Dining**
  
- **The Pharisees misuse of the Law**
  
- **Jesus' Response vv. 12-13**  
**Rom. 3: 10; Psm 14, 53**

### **3. The Disciples of John & Fasting v. 14**

- **Jesus' teaching on Fasting**  
**Matt 6: 16-18**
  
- **Jesus' Answer**
  - **Weddings v. 15**
  
  - **Tailors and Vine dressers vv. 16-17**

#### **Questions for Consideration**

- 1. With what kind of people do you normally socialize? How would you characterize the relationship? Do you ever seek out the company of those that your normal companions might find morally objectionable? Have you ever lost friends over those with whom you choose to associate?**
- 2. What are some legitimate concerns that your family/friends might have concerning those with whom you choose to associate? Where does spiritual maturity play into this? Does spiritual maturity equal personal agreement?**
- 3. What is the difference between those we choose to associate with and those we just happen to find ourselves with? Is there a difference in how we should interact with these two groups? When you are in the company of strangers do you tend to be open about your beliefs and concerns or do you tend to hide them until you find out a bit more about these “new people”? How do you think Jesus would have approached them?**
- 4. How can we teach our children to love those with whom we, even passionately, disagree? How can we teach them to guard their hearts against sin while embracing the sinner? Some families tend to guard their children so closely that they never have any direct contact with “others.” Other families seem to have no guard what-so-ever! What are the dangers of these two extremes? How can we mediate a more meaningful and loving way? Do our children and associates learn more from our words or from how we express those words? Why is this significant in our teaching?**