**In the World but Not of It**Matthew's Party Luke 5 **Expand your Influence**
LUKE 5: Jesus feasts with Levi and other “sinners”
LUKE 7: Jesus is anointed by a “sinner” at a Pharisee’s house
LUKE 9: Jesus feeds the five thousand
LUKE 10: Jesus eats at home of Mary and Martha
LUKE 11: Jesus condemns the Pharisees at dinner
LUKE 14: Jesus discusses who to invite to a party
LUKE 19: Jesus invites himself to dinner at Zaccheus’ house
LUKE 22: Jesus shares the Last Supper with his disciples
LUKE 24: Jesus has dinner in Emmaus
LUKE 24: Jesus cooks fish and toast for disciples on lakeshore

76% of Americans enjoy talking about food
53% of Americans watch at least one food show every week
Chef's Table, Nailed It, Chopped… A WHOLE NETWORK TO FOOD

Pictures on Facebook of food
20% of Luke's gospel around meals
Great way to get to know someone….let's have lunch, coffee
We are going to feel we get to know Jesus a little better
“In Luke’s gospel, Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal.” – Robert Karris

 Critics said… “The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!” Luke 7:34

“I give you… a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in the kingdom.” Luke 22:29,30

Jesus did not go around merely talking about eating and drinking; he went around eating and drinking. A lot.” – Peter Leithart
Three lessons from his meal with Matthew

We ignore the world, interact within our comfort zone
Don't go to a wedding, looks like you endorse this.
Billy Graham went to Russia

**1. Notice people Around You**Some that others Ignore*" Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him?” Luke 5:27-28*have you looked down on yourself
Have others looked down on you….self image
Tax Collectors: Rome hired local Jews to be tax collectors. They would be responsible to give to Rome the tax, and Rome would back them with whatever profit margins they wants. Could stop anyone anytime for tax inspections. They were not FAIR.
land tax, income tax, letter tax, 1/5 of fruit produce made, wheel tax, bridge tax, road tax, etc….
if you couldn't pay, you could borrow money at 50% rate.
If you didn't pay, the "mob" would come to collect.
They were mafia, IRS, local gang, corrupt government,
Tax collectors were banned from synagogue or temple.
Types of collectors
Gabbai - general tax collector
Mokus - day to day collectors, (little Mokus, great Mokus)
the worst, great if you employed people "Godfather."
Matthew was a little mokus, repentance of them was said to be impossible. they were lower than prostitutes.

Jesus saw a tax collector…stared at Matthew
perhaps all his questions about everything weren't answered
he just knew he wanted to follow Jesus.
WHO ARE PEOPLE THAT YOU DON'T NOTICE neighbors
only 20% spend time with neighbors
33% don't know any neighbors

**2. Engage people Beyond Your Normal***Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi’s fellow tax collectors and other guests also ate with them." Luke 5:29*
Only tax collectors and prostitutes. A large crowd. Matthew was wealthy.
Great Banquet - Daniel Rogov Gourmet and Wine Magazine
many descriptions in ancient times
tried to be like Romans
-10 hours
1st course game hors d'oeuvres
-entertainment
-2nd course soup, appetizers
-main course roast meat, fine wine, pork, shell fish.
-silverware, fork, glassware.
-threw leftovers on the floor
Jesus didn't approve of what was going on

Dinner: eating then….a talk TED talk.had to be good, eye lids were heavy Then Jesus spoke.

Fun police showed up
*"But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus’ disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with such scum?" Luke 5:30*worried about getting SIN GERMS.
most germ filled place in home….kitchen towels.
89% have bacteria.
diseases is transferred, not health BUT
Jesus' health holines is actually contagious.

Jesus would interact with people

**A church's slogan**
Everyone is welcome, No one is perfect, Anything is possible

**3. Be more interested in Helping People than judging them**
 *Jesus answered them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.”* Luke 5:31-32

Matthew's version
*Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ Matthew 9:13*Rub shoulders with unchurched.
should I go to this wedding, dinner.
People might think I approve this.

many become Christians.
neighbors on your street, in your building, at the office
do you know them?
we get insulated against other people.
Expand your circle of influence.

Unlike the Pharisees, Jesus didn’t require people to change before coming to Him. He sought them out, met them where they were, and extended grace to them in their circumstances. Change would come to those who accepted Christ, but it would be from the inside out.