

Matthew 9:9-17

Three things at the heart of becoming a Christian...

1. He calls us

2. He says to us: 'Follow Me'

3. He breaks our old way of looking at the world and replaces it with something new

Philippians 3:4–9 NIV

⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.



Is Jesus calling you?

When did Jesus last break your way of looking at things?

Two surprising truths...

1. He's not come for those who think they're good enough already - He's come for those who know their need

Hosea 6:6 NIV

⁶ For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Our actions reveal our true theology

Matthew 5:20 NIV

²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

“Cheer up! You're worse than you think, but the Grace of God is bigger than you can possibly imagine!”



*Is our church a safe place for those whose lives are messy or shocking?
Do people feel like they have to get their lives sorted before they can feel like they're welcome and they belong?*

2. He's our bridegroom calling us to a Wedding feast!

Ephesians 5:32 NIV

³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

He's committed to us:

- To **Love** us
- To be **Faithful** to us



How's our joy and love for Jesus?

We can be tempted to focus on *our* love, *our* commitment, *our* faithfulness to Him... The answer is to focus on **His** love, **His** commitment, **His** Faithfulness to us!