

God Loves Messed Up People

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – May 3, 2026

Matthew 9:9-13

9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

1. WE'RE ALL MESSED UP

Romans 3:23

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Isaiah 64:6

... all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. JESUS IS DRAWN TO MESSED UP PEOPLE

Matthew 9:12-13

12... Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13...'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Galatians 2:21

I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

3. JESUS TRANSFORMS MESSED UP PEOPLE

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 6:9, 11

9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God?... 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Luke 19:10

[Jesus said] "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

4. JESUS USES TRANSFORMED PEOPLE

2 Corinthians 5:17

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." ... 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses ... For when I am weak, then I am strong.