



## **Safe People - Dangerous Message**

Matthew 9:9-13

**Listen!** Is it possible that our behavior is making the Great Physician sick?

**Why bring this up?** I bring this up because there is an enduring confusion in the Christian faith:

- Am I supposed to be getting away from spiritually sick people or getting close to spiritually sick people?
  - Spiritually sick people are people with a:
  - Spiritually sick people are people without a:
  - The temptation in the flesh is to get away from these people.
  - The command in the Bible is to get close to these people.

**The Big Idea of this passage is simply:** Jesus continually modeled for us...compassionate contact with spiritually sick people.

**THE MODEL OF JESUS:** He was in continual, compassionate contact with spiritually sick people.

Application #1. Individually, we must be in regular, compassionate contact with spiritually needy people.

Application #2. Corporately, CBC must be a safe place to make merciful contact with spiritually struggling people.

**For Instance:** Cypress Bible Church. Gerry Welch. CBC Greeting Ministry.

**So What?**

# Walking Papers

“Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.”

**The Big Idea:** Jesus continually modeled for us...compassionate contact with spiritually sick people.

Please take some time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- **Today:** List the people you know personally with a bad track record and without Christ.
  
- **Monday:** Ask God the Holy Spirit to direct you to one of these people or one of these families whom you should make an intentional effort to befriend in an ongoing, compassionate way.
  
- **Tuesday:** Ask God the Holy Spirit how to start and talk to your family about how to start and decide on how to start and set a date for the first contact. Some possibilities:
  - Have them over for dinner.
  - Take them to a ball game.
  - Take some cookies over to them “out of the blue.”
  - Offer to help them with a project.
  - Ask them to help you with a project.
  - Invite them to the lake or beach.
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- **Wednesday:** Review the elements of effective outreach:
  - A. Pray for opportunities.
  - B. Learn the Gospel message clearly.
  - C. Make friends with unbelievers.
  - D. Be ready when they reach a cross roads where they are open to the message.
  
- **Thursday:** Ask someone to hold you accountable to make the contact you have committed to.
  
- **Friday:** Study Matthew 9:9-13. What else is God showing you here?
  
- **Saturday:** Ask and answer this question: “What makes me feel like I belong at CBC?”

***“Safe people, compassionate contact, dangerous message.”***