

Righteous or Sinner?  
Matthew 9:9-13

Review:

1. We have no room to think of ourselves as more righteous than anyone else
2. Jesus came to call sinners to repentance, to turn away from our sin
3. Being in fellowship with Jesus always involves sharing His love with other sinners

Go further: Read Hosea 6:4-11, 1-3

1. How does God describe His people's faithfulness in verse 4?
2. In verse 5, how does God say He will slay His people?
3. How does God describe His judgments?
4. What two things does verse 6 say that God wants most? What two things are of lesser importance to Him?
5. What does God accuse His people of doing in verse 7?
6. Gilead is the region east of the Jordan River where people from the tribes of Manasseh and Gad lived. How does God describe them in verse 8?
7. What does God say the priests are doing in verse 9?
8. What horrible thing does God see in verse 10? Who does God say is involved in these things?
9. What does God say will happen to Judah in verse 11?
10. What does Hosea call the people to do in verse 1?
11. What two things does he say God has done to the people? How does he promise that God will help them?
12. What does Hosea say God will do for the people in verse 2? When does he say this will happen?
13. Who does Hosea urge the people to know in verse 3?
14. How does Hosea promise that God will come to His people? What do you think this image meant to people living in a dry area like Israel?

Apply:

1. In what areas of your life do you find it hard to remain faithful to God? What kinds of sins do you find yourself slipping back into again and again?
2. Verse 5 speaks of the words of God's prophets slaying the wicked. How might this be true in today's culture? What parts of God's Word do you personally find most convicting?
3. Given God's priorities as expressed in verse 6, what changes do you need to make in how you use your time, talents, and treasure?
4. Verse 9 mentions Shechem, the place where Joshua and the people of Israel affirmed the covenant with the Lord during the initial conquest of the Promised Land (Joshua 8:30-35). Why would the actions of the priests described in that verse be so especially horrible in that place?
5. What connection do you see between verse 2 and the Resurrection of Christ? What is the connection between Jesus' resurrection and the new life that Hosea promises to the people of God?