

## Anti-Prom Parties

Matthew 9:10,

*Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him, and His disciples.*

It is late. There is thunder going on downstairs. Our boys do not go to Prom so they have had a “Anti-Prom” party for all the guys who also do not go. So around 10 guys come to our home from 6pm to 11pm-ish, (yeah right) and play video games, yell, eat 10 boxes of pizza, yell, laugh, yell, run outside, yell... you get the idea. I have been finishing my sermon for tomorrow and smile at the youth energy. I watch the guys stop the feasting in order to offer prayer of thanks. I hear them tell the other guys not to use the Lord’s Name in vain. I note that some of them are coming to church tomorrow because of them. It is not easy on them, or us for that matter. But is good for them, and us for that matter.

Here is my thought for us. Do unbelievers feel comfortable and willing to come and eat in our homes? Do we have “Matthew’s Party”? Do we even invite them? Are we sitting and laughing with unsaved and at times uncouth teens in order to share with them a simple example of Christ? I fear that we are so cooped up in our spiritual castles that we do not open the gates so we can get a bit dirty while feeding and loving them. How open are you to showing the strength of godliness? Yes, we will get messy; Christ did too. He was called “friends of sinners”. He was honored by prostitutes. He ate with deceivers, liars, corrupt, and debauched people. Yet He was never afraid of being defiled within but enjoyed shining out the compassionate God.

I grew up in a bubble. I went to Christian schools from Pre-School through 2 Masters Degrees - from 4 to 31 years old. I had one summer of public education in PE and metal working. I learned a lot in those classes, besides getting dirt jammed into my mouth before going home one day. I worked at a corporation one summer for school payments. But apart from that, I was in the “bubble”, looking at those bad people. I am not blasting Christian education or church separation but what I am blasting is the fearing of unrighteousness so much that we seclude ourselves from eternal needs of lost and poor sinners.

When was the last time you had an “Anti-Prom” party? When was the last time you opened your home to people apart from your church, school, and Christian circle’s safety? Yes, it will be uncomfortable; it is supposed to be. I promise you that they will be more uncomfortable in hell if they do not repent. Be a party giver like Matthew. You may be looked down on by other safe Christians but know that Christ will be there eating with you, watching your back.

*Who is at your table? Does Jesus bring His sick patients? He comes for them.*