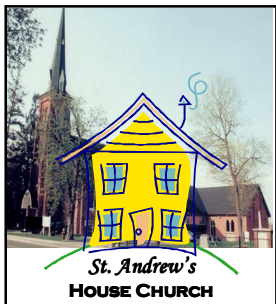


#### 4. Others as we are meant to see them

- a) Imagine seeing others as Matthews (“gifts of God”)
- b) When we see others as God sees them, we see the potential both in them and in us as we are called into relationship with each other
- c) Instead of dismissing others because of our prejudices or biases, we will seek to learn about and from them important truths about life
- d) As we begin to see others as God sees them, it might also lead us to see ourselves as God sees us which will be both a humbling and ennobling experience (see Luke 18:9-14)

#### TAKE HOMES (points to remember)

- i) The Pharisee felt good about himself, but it was the tax-collector who was \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) Jesus looks \_\_\_\_\_ who we are or what we’ve done to see who we \_\_\_\_\_
- i) We need to see others and ourselves as \_\_\_\_\_



#### FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

We encourage you to discuss these issues during the coming week as a

- Study Guide for House Church
- Time of reflection individually or with members of your family

#### Warm-Up

What kinds of appearances, behaviour, or associations tend to put you off when you

meet a person for the first time? Tell us about some surprising examples where first impressions were wrong? (good or bad)

1. Why are many people inclined to think more highly of themselves and less highly of others? (see Romans 12:2,3)
2. How common in the church are the attitudes of the Pharisee and tax-collector in Jesus’ parable? How is St. Andrew’s?
3. We easily recognize and condemn the pride of the Pharisee, but what is the problem with the tax-collector’s perspective?
4. How can we more accurately see ourselves as Jesus sees us? (see Luke 5:27-32)
5. How can we see others as “Matthews” even if they are Levis?



Current Series  
**“Through the Eyes  
Of Jesus”**

February 28 to April 18

## 2. “Levi as Jesus Sees a Tax-collector”

### Message Outline

#### 1. First impressions are hard to dismiss

Why do people frequently write others off because their appearance, behaviour, or company do not meet their pre-determined criteria for acceptability?

#### 2. The way we see others (see Luke 18:9-14)

- a) Sometimes it makes us feel better if we compare ourselves with someone who is of lesser stature or accomplishment
- b) This false sense of superiority blocks us from experiencing God’s blessing
- c) In categorizing certain people, we usually fail to appreciate who they really are and what significant contribution they might make to our lives personally or corporately
- d) Categorizing others is employed to exclude people from our inner circle of friends or to dismiss them as persons with legitimate claims or concerns
- e) Tragically, this is a commonplace tendency in the church

#### 3. The way Jesus sees Levi, a tax-collector (see Luke 5:27-32)

- a) When Jesus sees someone, he always looks beyond who that person is or what that person has done to see who that person might become by the grace of God
- b) Jesus does not ignore what the person may have done in the past that may need to be dealt with and made right
- c) Jesus invites us to **“become all God wants us to be”** and engages himself in a life-changing process that might be so radical that it will require a name change