

## Religion AS IF PEOPLE MATTERED

(MATTHEW 9:9-13)

INTRODUCTION: *CHILDREN AT THE COMMUNION RAIL*

- I. RELIGION AS IF PEOPLE MATTERED
  - A. IN THE PHARISEE'S SYSTEM, "SINNERS" DID NOT COUNT (V.11)
  - B. JESUS REPLIES: *PEOPLE, NOT SYSTEMS ARE IMPORTANT* (VV.12-13)
  - C. THE BIBLE TEACHES: SINNERS COUNT! (ROMANS 5:6-8)
  
- II. IN TRUE CHRISTIAN PRACTICE, ALL PEOPLE MATTER
  - A. THIS IS WHERE OUR FAITH MUST LEAD US: ALL PEOPLE MATTER
  - B. BUT EVERYDAY AROUND US THERE IS A CLEAR MESSAGE: *SOME PEOPLE DO NOT COUNT*
  - C. THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS NOT IMMUNE TO THIS ATTITUDE
  - D. ***A LETTER FROM A PASTOR'S FILES...***
  - E. LOUISE HANDSBURY'S ***A RAISIN IN THE SUN...***
  
- III. GOD'S LOVE ENABLES US TO MAKE OTHERS COUNT!
  - A. SO SAYS 1 JOHN 4: 7-11
  - B. SO SAYS ROMANS 5:6-8 (AGAIN!)
  - C. SO SAYS JESUS IN TODAY'S TEXT (MATTHEW 9:12)
  - D. WITH GOD'S LOVE FOR US WE CAN MAKE OTHERS COUNT

CONCLUSION: *A LESSON FROM DISNEY'S "TOY STORY" MOVIE:*

***BECAUSE I'M HIS, I COUNT!***