



## **Religion AS IF PEOPLE MATTERED (MATTHEW 9:9-13)**

**INTRODUCTION:** The bad article in the Theological Journal...

### **I. RELIGION AS IF PEOPLE DO NOT MATTER**

- 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
- C. So says Jesus in today's text (Matthew 9:12)
- D. With God's love for us we can make others count

**CONCLUSION:** He moved the fence!