

## A Healthy Church is a Relational Church

**Matthew 9** Jesus relates to 17 different people or groups in one day.

- **9:2** The paralytic
- **9:2** Friends of the paralytic
- **9:3-8** Scribes
- **9:10** Tax collectors, sinners, disciples
- **9:11-13** Pharisees
- **9:14-17** Disciples of John
- **9:18-19** Rulers
- **9:20-23** A woman with the issue of blood
- **9:23-25** Flute players, large crowd
- **9:25** A sick girl
- **9:27-31** Two blind men
- **9:32-33** Mute and demon-possessed, multitude

### I

#### How did Jesus relate to people?

Jesus went where people were **hurting**. *Matthew 9:1-2*

Jesus was not locked into a style. *Matthew 9:3-6*

Jesus encouraged others to get **involved** and **help**. *Matthew 9:9*

Jesus inspired **hope**. *Matthew 9:18*

Jesus was **willing** to be interrupted. *Matthew 9:22* and *9:32*

- Relationships form our networks in life.

### II

#### What relationships do we need today to be healthy?

Fools "People who reject knowledge" Warning! *Proverbs 13:20*

Foes "People who oppose you and knowledge" Scorners

Fanatics "Pharisees have a religious agenda" Plotters

- These are **competitive** relationships. *Matthew 5:44*

### III

Fans "People who applaud what you do" The crowd

\*Friendlies "People who know you by face" The congregation "who do men say I am"

\*Familiars "People who know you by face" The community "Nazarenes"

- These are **community** relationships. *Mark 6:1-6*

### IV

Familiar ones "People you know by face, first or last name" The committed

\*Family "People you know by blood relationship" The close

\*Faithful ones "People you know you can count on them" The core

- These are **common** relationships. *John 19:26 - 27*

### V

Friends "People who know you" and still love you" Be loyal to them

\*Favorites "People who get extra and preferred treatment" Celebrate them

\*Fascinating ones "People you marvel at their complexity" Embrace them

- These are the **closest** relationships. *Philippians 4:21*

To salute or greet means to draw to one's self, to bid **welcome** or wish **well**.

To embrace means to hold someone in your arms as a way of expressing love or friendship.

- *All relationships are special!*
- *All relationships take up different space, time and resource!*
- *All relationships have benefits and liabilities.*

*Enjoy the embrace!*