MSG: FROM THE BOOTH TO THE TABLE
SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 9:9–13 NIV
SZN 1:REVIVAL THROUGH LIVING

Matthew 9:9–13 NIV
“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

“The masses of men live with their backs constantly against the wall. They are the poor, the disinherited, the dispossessed. What does our religion say to them?”
— Howard Thurman, Jesus and the Disinherited

“Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”
— James Baldwin

1. JESUS CALLS US AWAY FROM THE BOOTH

Matthew 9:9 NIV
“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.”

JESUS SEES YOU AT YOUR MONEY

YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM A BOOTH WITHOUT EVER FEELING LIKE A VILLAIN

“True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.”
— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“FOLLOW ME” MEANS GET UP
Matthew 6:24 NIV
“…You cannot serve both God and money.”

WHAT BOOTH IS JESUS CALLING YOU TO GET UP FROM?

2. JESUS REDEEMS WHAT WE HAVE FOR HIS TABLE

Matthew 9:10 NIV
“While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.”

THE HOUSE THE BOOTH PAID FOR BECOMES A TABLE FOR JESUS

“Wealth is what you don’t see. Wealth is the nice cars not purchased. The diamonds not bought. The watches not worn, the clothes forgone, and the first-class upgrade declined.”
— Morgan Housel, The Psychology of Money

Matthew 6:21 NIV
“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

AT HIS TABLE, THE PEOPLE PUSHED OUT GET A SEAT

STEWARDSHIP REACHES THE LEAST OF THESE

Matthew 25:40 NIV
“…whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

“…nobody's free until everybody's free.”
— Fannie Lou Hamer

IS YOUR HOUSE A BOOTH OR A TABLE?

3. JESUS VALUES MERCY OVER SACRIFICE

Matthew 9:11–13 NIV
“When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.””

GOD WANTS MERCY MORE THAN RELIGIOUS PERFORMANCE

Hosea 6:6 NIV
“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.”

Matthew 23:23 NIV
“…You give a tenth of your spices… But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness…”

“…between the Christianity of this land, and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference…”
— Frederick Douglass

POWER IN THE KINGDOM IS MEASURED BY SERVICE

Matthew 20:26 NIV
“…whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”

“Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice…”

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

BRING THE TABLE INTO THE BOOTH

Jeremiah 29:7 NIV
“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

DO YOU USE YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE, AND YOUR INFLUENCE TO BE SERVED OR TO SERVE?

“The function of freedom is to free someone else.”
— Toni Morrison

Matthew 4:19 NIV
““Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.””

GET UP FROM THE BOOTH.

COME TO THE TABLE.

THEN SET A PLACE FOR SOMEONE ELSE.