

WELCOME!
Men's Fellowship Breakfast

October 2, 2020

Follow Me: Lessons from the Lives of the Disciples

#4 – “I Came to Call Sinners”
Matthew 9:9-13

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Thesis for our Semester

Jesus uses *ordinary* men to accomplish His *extraordinary* mission.

A “disciple” is called to ...

- 1) ... faith in Jesus Christ. (*Salvation*)
- 2) ... follow after Jesus Christ and obey Him. (*Sanctification*)
- 3) ... fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ and tell others about Him.
(*Mission*)
- 4) ... fellowship in the family of Jesus Christ (*Koinonia/Community*)

Context for Matthew 9:9-13



Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Who Was Matthew?

- Hebrew Name: **Levi** = “joined” (see Mark 2:14)
- Greek Name: **Matthew** = “gift of Yahweh”
- Tax Collector
- Disciple
- Evangelist/Gospel Writer!

Who Was Matthew?

“These taxes were a form of customs duty or toll applied to the movement of goods and produce brought into an area for sale. As such these tolls were a sort of “sales tax” paid by the seller but obviously passed on to the purchaser in the form of increased prices ... The system as a whole is sometimes referred to as “tax farming” because a contract to collect these taxes for an entire district would be sold to the highest bidder, who would pay up front, hire employees to do the work of collection, and then recoup the investment and ...

Who Was Matthew?

“... overhead by charging commissions on top of the taxes. Although rates and commissions were regulated by law, there was plenty of room for abuse in the system through the subjective valuation of goods by the tax collectors, and even through outright bribery. ***Tax overseers and their employees were obviously not well liked.***”

- NET Bible Study Note

Who Was Matthew?

“In the ancient world generally a shared meal was a clear sign of identification, and *for a Jewish religious teacher to share a meal with such people was scandalous*, let alone to do so in the ‘unclean’ house of a tax collector.”

- R.T. France, *The Gospel of Matthew*

Matthew 9:9-13

“Jesus Himself responded to the Pharisees’ question. He said that He went to the tax collectors and sinners because they were sinners. They had a spiritual illness and needed spiritual healing. Note that Jesus did not go to these people because they received Him warmly but ***because they needed Him greatly.***”

- Tom Constable

Lessons from Matthew 9:9-13

1) We are “sick” because we are “sinners” ... but Jesus still chooses and uses us as His disciples.

Luke 18:13-14

“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Lessons from Matthew 9:9-13

1) We are “sick” because we are “sinners” ... but Jesus still chooses and uses us as His disciples.

Romans 3:23

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...

Lessons from Matthew 9:9-13

1) We are “sick” because we are “sinners” ... but Jesus still chooses and uses us as His disciples.

“The gospel says you are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than you ever dared believe, but more accepted and loved than you ever dared hope.”

- Tim Keller

Lessons from Matthew 9:9-13

1) We are “sick” because we are “sinners” ... but Jesus still chooses and uses us as His disciples.

Romans 3:23

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...

Romans 5:8

... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Lessons from Matthew 9:9-13

- 1) We are “sick” because we are “sinners” ... but Jesus still chooses and uses us as His disciples.
- 2) Self-righteousness will stifle (and legalism will limit) our usefulness as His disciples.

Luke 13:14

But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.”

Lessons from Matthew 9:9-13

- 1) We are “sick” because we are “sinners” ... but Jesus still chooses and uses us as His disciples.
- 2) Self-righteousness will stifle (and legalism will limit) our usefulness as His disciples.

Luke 18:11-12

“The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, *I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.* I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’”

Thesis for our Semester

Jesus uses *ordinary* men to accomplish His *extraordinary* mission.

Next Week

Peter, Part 1: “O You of Little Faith.” (*Matthew 14:22-33*)

Discussion Questions

- 1) Do you agree that you are more sinful than you ever dared believe while also being more loved than you ever dared hope? Why are both of these truths important to believe?**
- 2) Do you struggle with legalism or self-righteousness? How have these struggles ever limited you in your usefulness as Christ's disciple?**

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