

FOLLOW ME

The Gospel of Matthew Part 1

WEEK 9 - JESUS CALLS MATTHEW OVERVIEW

There are scholars today who question the authorship of the gospel of Matthew, as he is never explicitly named as such in the text. However, Christian tradition from the earliest days attributes this gospel to Matthew, Jesus' disciple. For this reason, Jesus' calling of Matthew the tax collector hums with deep resonance as a lived, eye-witness experience. What makes the story even more compelling is the Pharisee's revulsion at Jesus' choice of followers combined with his response to their indignant comments. In this we see again Christ's heart for the broken, outcast, sinful people of this world and his desire to bring healing and life to those who need it most.

"I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Matthew 9:13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of an example in today's world of a person who would be despised because of their job, like Matthew, the tax collector?
2. What specific areas does Matthew show Jesus has authority over? (Read Matthew 7:29; 8:16-17; 8:27, 9:1-8)
3. Read Matthew 9:9.
 - a. Describe what we know about Matthew.
 - b. Why do you think Matthew simply got up and followed Jesus?
 - c. Why do you think Jesus chose to ask Matthew to follow him?
4. Read Matthew 4:12-17. Have you ever been the one sitting in darkness, like Matthew at his tax collector's booth? If so, how did you see the light?
5. Read Matthew 9:10-13.
 - a. What is the significance of Jesus having dinner with Matthew and his friends?
 - b. How does the Matthew account of Jesus' rebuke in verses 12-13 compare to those of Mark, and Luke?
 - c. How is Jesus' act of mercy to Matthew and his friends the fulfillment of Hosea 6:6?
6. Have you ever been on the receiving end of mercy? Does that affect the way you offer mercy to others? Why or why not?
7. Maron said, "The Gospel of Matthew still has the power to take our breath away, to challenge us in our faith and to launch us into the mission of God." What does this mean to you? How does this ring true in your story?

RESOURCES

www.gracechurch.us/matthew