**Tax Collectors Welcome**

Matthew 9:9-13

June 8, 2025

**Introduction**

If you were trying to build successful business, innovative, cutting edge, hi tech…

What kind of ppl would you need?

Where would you find those people?

How would you choose?

*Indeed* is job find company - hv an ad on TV now of a yng woman intervu for a hotel job

Job requires a college degree, she doesn’t have one but lots of job related exper.

She asks th interviewer if a degree in Dutch poetry would be enuf, he says yes

Zoology

Metal smithing

Poultry science

Finally she asks him what his degree is in and he says – modern dance

Bill Gates never graduated from college!!!

Jesus Christ wanted to build a successful organization, reach around the world, change

lives, influence society for good, give people hope and future and last 2K years

What kind of ppl would He need?

Where would He find those people?

How would He choose?

In Matthew 4 Jesus called His first D’s. Peter, Andrew, James, John

No colleg degree, fishermn, no professional skills – world changers? Most say no

Today in Mt 9:9-13 Jesus calls someone to join Him

Another unlikely choice a tax collector

**Parallel Accounts**

Mark 2:13-17 152 words

Luke 5:27-32 121 words

Matthew 9:9-13 132 words

Differences

1. Matthew the tax collector is called Matthew 9:1, Mark and Luke he is called

Levi [Lk5:27] or Levi the son of Alphaeus [Mk2:14]

2. Only Matthew cites Hosea 6:6

3. Mark and Luke identify the house as belonging to Levi

4. minor wording

Matthews uniqueness: Matthew by name and the addition of Hosea 6:6 to Jesus answer

**I. Jesus Called Matthew To Follow Him 9**

A. Tax office

Romans taxed people they ruled – income tax and trade/custom tax

Taxes often hard to pay

Tax collectors bid for the job, often much corruption and overcharging,

Two kinds of tax collectors

Publican – street level tax collector i.e. the face people assoc w Rome!

Chief tax collector – Zacheus in Lk19:2

Jews particularly disliked taxes because paid for occupation power and control

And because often extortion and extra charges charged

B. Matthew

Name means ‘gift of God’, Levi in Mark and Luke means ‘attached’

Used 5X’s in NT Mt9:9 10:3, Mk3:18, Lk6:15, Ac1:13 – all but first list of apostles

Levi used in parallel passages in Mk2:14 and Lk5:27,29

Speculation – JS gave Levi the name Matthew: ff Christ new start new name1618

C. Following

Jesus said to him: follow Me

He arose and followed Him, Lk adds 5:28 he left *all* when he followed

Note that Matthew himself does not tell us that in his gospel, modest

Perhaps he had heard JS or seen something JS did or command of JS voice

Totally committed compare with Mt8:18-22 type of followers, Ph3:7

Amy Carmichael wrote:

I hear Him call, Come, follow

That was all

My gold grew dim

Hy heart went after Him

I rose and followed

That was all

Would you not follow

If you heard Him call?

Lesson-JS looking 4world changers, ppl follow Him when He smply said follow Me

**II. Matthew Invites Other Tax Collectors To Meet Jesus 10**

A. Matthew’s guests

Jesus and His disciples

Other tax collectors

And sinners – this is just added with ‘tax collectors’ association was common

Matthew invites people he knows and perhaps cares about, Matthew wanted to

leave his old life as fast as possible, but he also did not want to leave the

people behind, this is the mark of a follower of Jesus to care for people

B. Sat down with Him

Meal [Lk5:29 a great feast] , fellowship at a meal

You don’t eat w people you hate, you do eat with people you like

Christ ate with tax collectors and sinners – Jesus was not put off by them Lk5:29

Lesson – When U follow JS, U still need to connect w others to reach them

Every new believer lives with this tension: ff JS and desire for nu life & desire to

be away from old life and friends BUT Matt. has it right he cares for his friends

**III. Critics Criticize Jesus 11**

A. Critics

Pharisees – religious group largely critical of Jesus, seen in Mt3:7, 5:20

Self righteous, judging others, non-spiritual people, thr standard=God’s

Scribes 9:3 just before this

B. Criticism

To JS D’s Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?

Indirect, put D’s on the spot, afraid to confront JS directly

**IV. Why Jesus Chose Tax Collectors and Sinners to Follow Him 12-13**

A. Because He is like a physician

Who needs a physician? Sick people need a physician not well people

He is a physician who cares, going to people who are soul sick, note P’s not going

B. Because of the Scriptures

Jesus uses a rabbinic expression: go and learn what this means

Scripture He cites is Ho6:6, Hosea prophetic ministry symbolic of God and Israel

What God desires is compassion more than sacrifice [religion]

Other prophet to Israel Amos said in 5:21-24

C. Because this was His purpose

I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance

The righteous – the Pharisees see themselves this way, JS is not agreeing Lk1910

But sinners – like tax collectors and sinners, like Matthew, like all Lk18:10-14

To repentance [not in some texts] teach them and show them what the

word of God says then they change their mind about some area of sin Lk15:1ff … over one sinner who repents, lost then found [the way]

Lesson – Jesus wants to change the world – not outwardly but inwardly first and then

outwardly. Thos who follow Him hv come 2grips with His purpose inwardly first.

Lesson – Who are you like in the passage? Jesus…Matthew…TC&S…Pharisees…?

JS was/is building His church – calls TC&S to follow