

The Call of Matthew

Matthew 9:9-13

Mark 2:13-17

Luke 5:27-32

Call Of Matthew/Levi

Banquet At Matthew's House

Texts:

Matthew 9:9-13,

9. 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.

10. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples.

11. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

12. On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

13. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:13-17,

13. Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them.

14. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

15. While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

16. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

17. On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Luke 5:27-32,

27. After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth.

28. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

29. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.

30. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?”

31. Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

32. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Commentary:

I. Many of Jesus’ mighty deeds were performed “as he passed by.”

A. John 9:1, As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.

B. Matthew 4:18, As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

C. Matthew 9:27, As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

D. Mark 11:20, In the morning as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.

II. Jesus seized opportunities as they came along.

A. Here Jesus used such an opportunity to call Matthew to the apostleship.

B. Jesus saw a “man” when many would have seen a hated “tax collector.”

C. This may not have been the first time Jesus met Matthew.

D. Matthew’s call was a challenge to the snobbish Pharisees of that day and for many people in our day as well.

E. A Publican was a social outcast. We have a mission to the downtrodden also.

F. Publicans paid a certain amount to the Romans and kept everything collected above the stipulated amount.

G. Jews were strongly opposed to paying taxes to Rome and regarded other Jews who became publicans as traitors.

H. Publicans and sinners were synonymous to the Jews of that day.

III. The self-righteous Pharisees could not accept Jesus as the Messiah when he ate with “publicans and sinners” and even called a publican to the apostleship.

IV. Jesus walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee evidently in the environs of Capernaum

A. Two apostles, James and Matthew/Levi, were sons of fathers named Alphaeus. Nothing in the New Testament indicates they were brothers.

B. Jesus gave each individual his careful attention.

C. When called, Matthew immediately left his tax collecting and followed Jesus without delay and excuse.

D. Matthew “forsook all” and followed Jesus.

E. Many publicans enriched themselves by extortion.

V. It was common practice in Galilee in those days for people to have two given names, in this case Matthew Levi. Matthew means “gift of God.”

A. Matthew was certainly a “gift of God” in regard to his authorship at the Gospel according to Matthew which shows remarkable understanding of Jewish history and Jewish first century society.

VI. Following his call to the apostleship, Matthew prepared a banquet at his house for Jesus.

A. Many publicans and sinners came to the dinner.

B. This is what Matthew had to say About the banquet he gave for Jesus.

C. This large banquet attended by publicans and sinners was considered an outrage to the self-righteous Pharisees.

VII. The scribes from among the Pharisees tried to cause dissension between Jesus and his disciples by asking the disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with publicans and sinners?”

- A. This was certainly not a sincere question designed to secure information.
- B. The disciples evidently relayed the question to Jesus.
- C. Jesus responded when he heard the question that the healthy (Pharisees) did not need a physician. The Pharisees were the really sick (sinful) ones. This must have “brought the house down.”
- D. Those who were sick (publicans and sinners) needed a physician.
- E. Jesus portrayed himself as the spiritual physician who came to treat the sins of the world.

VIII. Jesus told the Pharisees to go learn what this parable meant: viz.,

- A. “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice: for I came not to call the righteous but sinners.” This was sharp irony!
- B. Hosea 6:6-9, For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. Like Adam, they have broken the covenant – they were unfaithful to me there. Gilead is a city of wicked men, stained with footprints of blood. As marauders lie in ambush for a man, so do bands of priests; they murdered on the road to Shechem, committing shameful crimes.
- C. Jesus here compared the reprobate Pharisees with the wicked priesthood of Hosea’s times.
- D. Jesus did come to call the righteous as well as the wicked.

E. The self-righteous Pharisees thought they had no need of repentance.

IX. The Pharisees were among the most wicked of people, proud, arrogant, unscrupulous, hypocritical, ruthless, but they regarded themselves as the most righteous of God's servants. Their sins were clearly evident to everyone except to themselves.

X. Matthew began his Christian service in a public way by inviting all his friends to a banquet for the purpose of introducing them to Jesus.

A. Matthew did not straddle the fence.

B. He made his allegiance known to all in a public manner.

The Call of Matthew

Banquet at Matthew's House

Questions

1. Jesus saw a man named _____ sitting at the _____'s _____.
2. Jesus told him, "_____ got up and _____."
3. Jesus had _____ at _____'s house. Mary _____ and "_____" came and ate with Jesus and his _____.
4. When the _____ saw this, they asked the _____, "Why does your _____ eat with _____ and _____?"
5. Jesus responded, "It is not the _____ who need a _____, but the _____."
6. Jesus further said, "I desire _____, not _____. I have not come to call the _____, but _____."
7. Matthew was also called _____. He was the son of _____.
8. Mary of Jesus' _____ were performed as he _____. Jesus seized _____ as they came along.

9. The _____ - _____ could not accept Jesus as the _____ when he ate with _____ and _____ and when he even called a publican to be his _____. The Pharisees were self-righteous condescending religious bigots.

10. Matthew _____ and _____ . So must we!

11. Matthew prepared a great _____ at his house for Jesus. Mary _____ and _____ came to the _____.

12. Were the Pharisees “sick?” The Pharisees thought they were healthy and did not need a _____.

13. The _____ were among the most _____ of _____, _____, _____, _____, but they regarded themselves as the most _____ of _____’s _____.

14. Matthew began his _____ in a public way by _____ all his _____ to a _____ for the purpose of _____ them to _____.

15. Are our opinions and God’s opinion of ourselves and others the same? _____ In what ways may these opinions vary?

Finished exam can be mailed or dropped off at:
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