

The Call of Jesus  
to Matthew  
Matthew 9:9-13



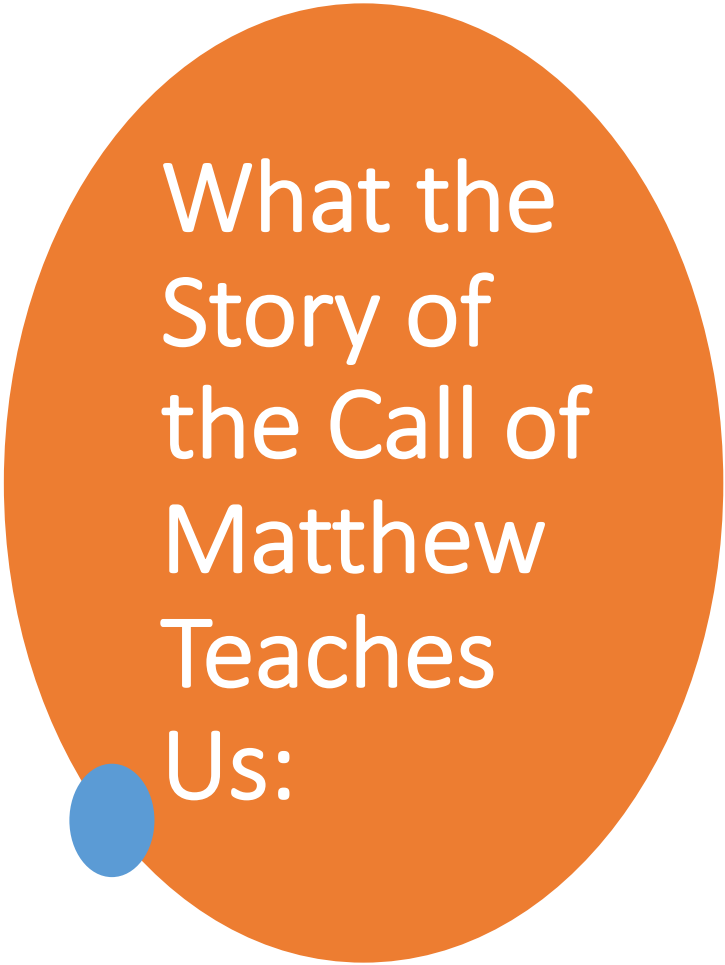
# Observations

- What did Jesus see in Matthew to call him to the “Apostleship,” one of the original twelve?
- Did he see something that is not readily visible to us?
- Are there some “Matthews” around us that Jesus wants us to call to the Gospel? Look at 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 N.I.V. :

*“You yourselves are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”*

- Paul is telling us to write in the open book of our own lives (we are story tellers) how Christ wants people to live

***The Holy Spirit Is Guiding Us As Living Letters!***



What the  
Story of  
the Call of  
Matthew  
Teaches  
Us:



## ***God Molds Your Personality Into His Character By the Holy Spirit!***

***For those who are led by the  
spirit of God are the children  
of God; Romans 8:14***

***It is the spirit.....John 6:63***

***Add to your faith virtue, and to  
virtue, knowledge,.....and.....  
temperance,...2 Peter 1:5-10***



## Background Information

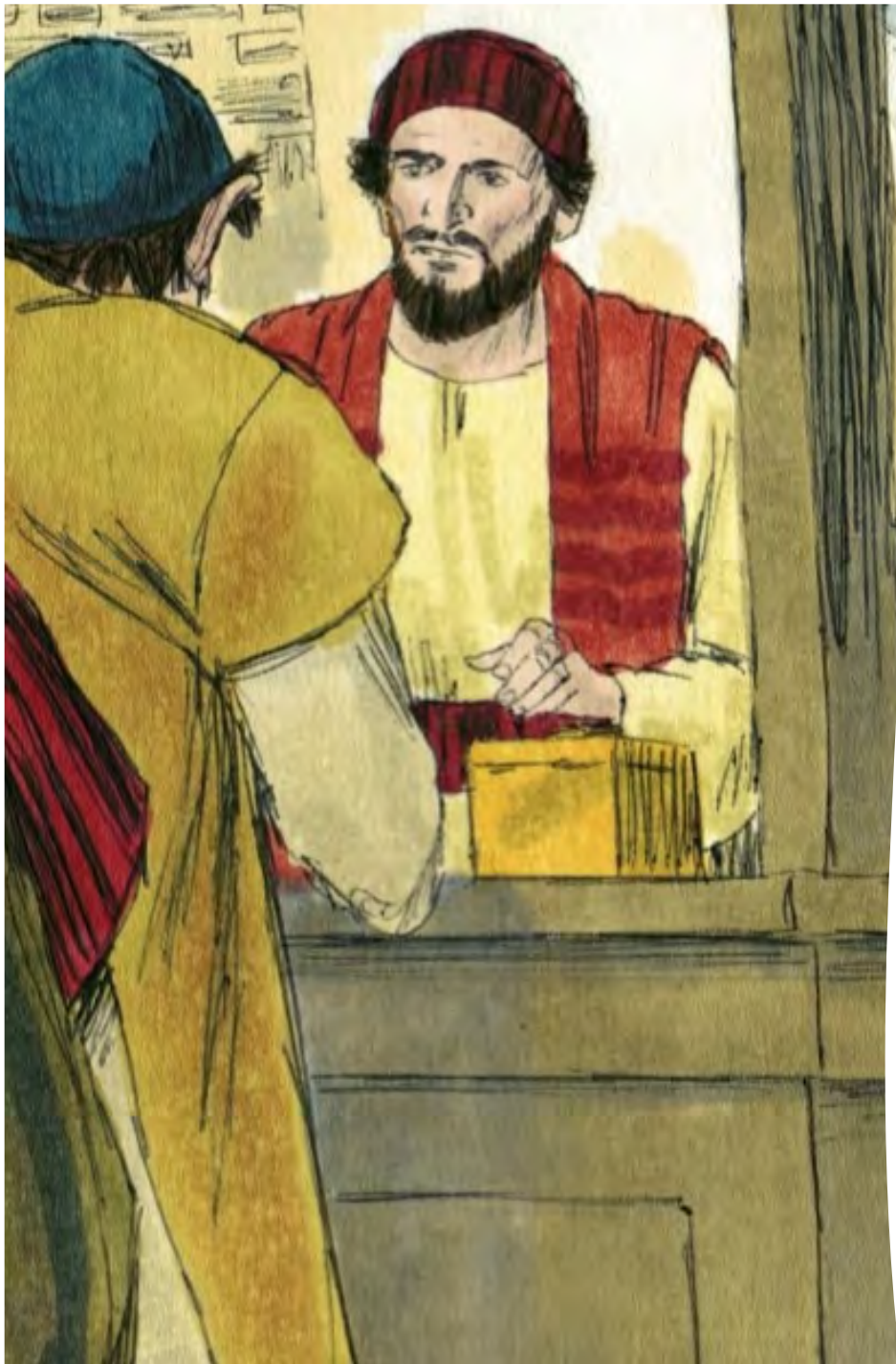
- **This apostle calls himself Matthew in his own gospel, but Mark and Luke used his Jewish name, Levi, in referring to him in their gospels, Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32**
- **His Jewish name, Levi, identified him with the Levitical tribe, which was the tribe of Israel, dedicated for worship and service to God; Numbers 3:6; Deuteronomy 10:8**
- **In Acts 1:13, written by Luke, when listed with the original apostles, he is referred to as Matthew, the name used after his call from Jesus**



What was  
Matthew's  
Job Before  
Meeting  
Christ?

- Notice that Matthew's job was that of a "Publican"—the name given to one who collects taxes for the Roman Government (the publican name was from the Latin word "publicanus," because of their close relation to the public purse)
- The orthodox Jews saw this profession as one of "ill repute" (a traitor)





- This job had the “built-in” advantage of allowing a Jewish worker to extort from his own people any money over and above what the Roman Government would tax, with the Government backing them. A Jewish Publican could give Rome what they taxed his neighbor and keep “any overages” for himself
- They were known as “leeches” by the Jews, because they were allowed to “gorge themselves” on money over and above what the Roman Government would charge

# Think About This:

- **Matthew was a man who was given a Levitical name (the only tribe of Israel that could offer sacrifices for the sins of the other tribes), who chose a tainted profession that extorted money from his own people**
- **Remember Zaccheus, a wealthy Jewish Chief Tax Collector (others worked under him), who when converted to Christ, offered to give much of his earnings away, even four times the amount to each individual he had cheated, Luke 19:2-8**



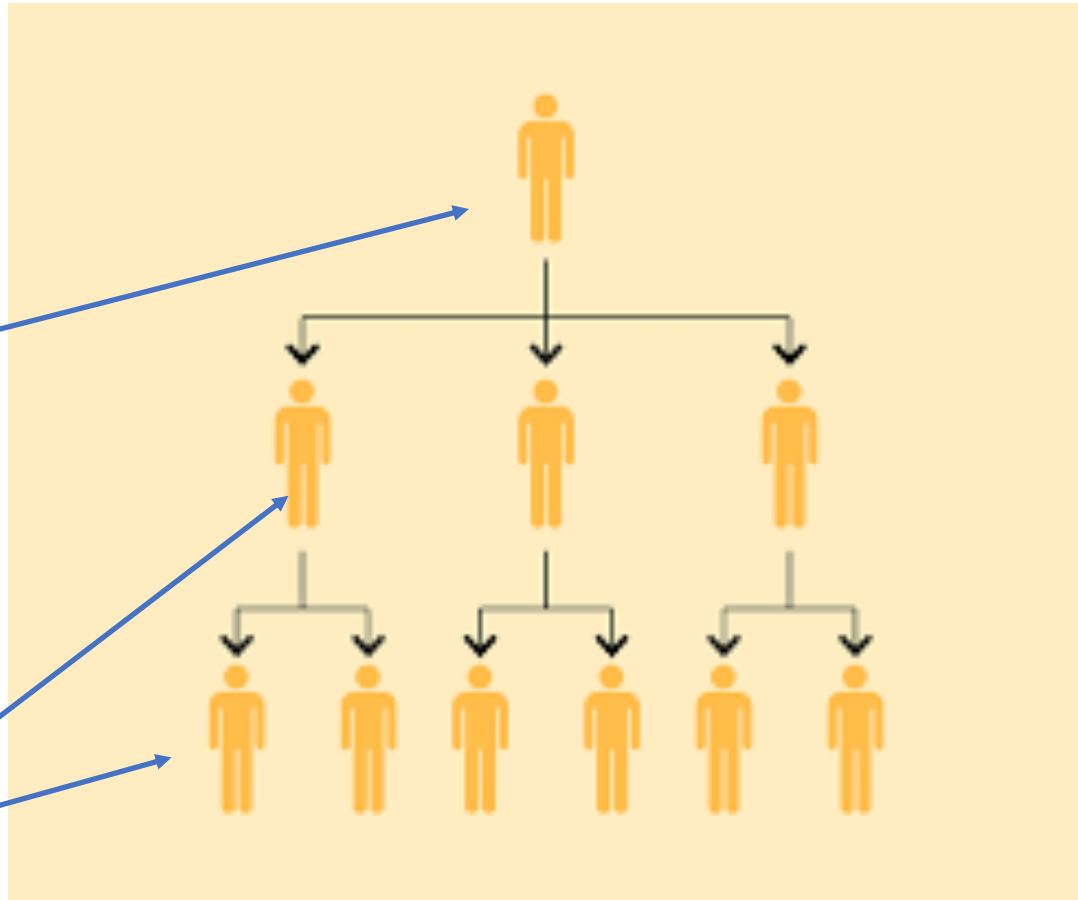
# Early Form of Network Marketing

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**Chief Tax  
Collector**

**Under Contract  
with Rome**

**Subcontractors  
(street collectors  
and enforcers)**







# So What Did Jesus See In This Man to Admit Him to the Original Twelve?

- Well, Jesus didn't prejudge Matthew as a Tax Collector

*“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.” Matt 9:9*

- Jesus saw a man who had the heart to follow Him

He left his public job

He left his lucrative career (materially set for life)

He left his fellow coworkers and employees

- For some, the call to Jesus came right where they worked

(Paul, Peter, Andrew)(In college, at work)(not just at church)(maybe selling his soul weighed too heavily on Matt.)








# What a Reminder!

God Can Use Anyone Who Is Willing to be used with one key requirement: You must be willing to leave everything that does not align with Christian conduct.


*“If any man will come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever desires to save his life will lose it. But whosoever will lose his life for my sake will find it.”*

Matthew 16:24,25 (Levi recorded this from Jesus)

- Matthew left his position, financial potential, image with Rome, his supervisory role, to follow Jesus
  - Matthew couldn't keep living like he was living and follow Jesus
  - Sometimes you may be challenged to accept less money, work different shifts, or lose friends to follow Jesus
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# Matthew Introduces His Friends to Christ

Matt 9:10-13





- **Matthew has a dinner at his house to introduce his publican friends, coworkers, and social acquaintances to Jesus (His disciples went too)**
  - **How many of you have invited potential New Testament Christians to your homes with physical food, in order to give them spiritual food as well (appetizer then the entree')**
  - **But there were some uninvited guest that crashed this party, the Pharisees**
  - **They were there on behalf of all the "wronged people of Israel," who had been robbed by these publicans**
  - **They were grumbling because Jesus, Matthew's "new BFF," was mixing and eating with the "swindlers of Jewish Society"**
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# Jesus Heard the Pharisees Question His Disciples About His Conduct

*“Why Does Your Teacher Eat With Tax Collectors and Sinners (Crooks)?” “What kind of an example is this for a teacher?”*

Jesus answers them: “The healthy don’t need a doctor, but the sick do.”

- To claim to be a physician is one thing, but a doctor avoiding sick people is another (the Pharisees’ example)
  - Sin was a “sickness of the soul.” Jesus was attending to the sick publicans. Levi had undergone successful treatment
  - Jesus doesn’t deny that the publicans had issues, but as “The Great Physician,” He was right where He needed to be (treating disease)
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# Observations

- The Pharisees were sick too but didn't know it
- Jesus points this out. He tells them:

***“Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” Matthew 9:13***

- He was telling them that to Claim Religion is one thing but to Practice Religion was something totally different:



***If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion undefiled before God and the Father is this. To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:26-27***





**Religion is a Duty,  
Not Just a Series  
of Disclaimers!**





# The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**                      **Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**                **Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**                      **Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**                      **Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**                         **Acts 8:38**

