

The Call Of Matthew (Mt 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."

Mt 9:9-13

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Eph 4:1-6.

Holy there is no one like you
There is none beside you
Open up my eyes in wonder
And show me who you are and
Fill me with your heart to those
around me

Who was Matthew?

- Tax-collector A traitor
- Hated despised
- The textbook example of the "unrighteous"
- A sinner

vs Simon (zealot)

How did Matthew respond to Jesus' call?

- He leaves the idolatry of his old lives and follows Jesus without hesitation
 - His financial security
 - His sense of control and self-reliance
 - **BUT**
- He doesn't sever the relationships of his former life
- He doesn't think he's too good to associate with them

- He remembers and shows hospitality to those people the religious establishment despises
- He invites Jesus into his world so he can transform it
- He lets Jesus grace and mercy define him and how he orients his life

What does Jesus mean with “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners”?

- High / Low Anthropology

The example of Matthew

- Humility He knows he’s not perfect
He knows Jesus loves him anyway
He doesn’t frame his story to make himself the center of it
- Repentance He doesn’t reject the label of sinner
He doesn’t justify himself
He doesn’t blame others
He doesn’t negate the harm he caused
- Mission He shares his story
He doesn’t keep the gospel to himself
He introduces Jesus to his friends
He eats with the wrong people

The Mens’ Retreat

Why don’t we do more of this?

Hospitality as something we practise

how often are we more like pharisee than Matthew

Fresh Wind
revival
Fan us into
flame

To do
break bread
have a cuppa
with someone
you don't know
invite someone to
your home that
you wouldn't
usually eat with