

Matthew 9:9-13 **Matthew Called**

Matthew Levi Called [Matthew 9:9-13, Luke 5:27-32]

9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.

11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ Matthew was a Levite, but he was also a tax collector for Rome.
 - ✧ As a Tax Collector for the occupying power, Matthew was despised along with all other tax collectors, and they all were viewed as sinners by the Jewish people.
- ✚ Matthew was familiar with the ministry and miracles of Jesus that had been happening all around him from the beginning of the ministry of Jesus.
- ✚ When Jesus extended the call to him personally, Matthew immediately arose and accepted the call.
 - ✧ Overjoyed for being chosen, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to a banquet in His honor at his own house.
 - ✧ Apparently the doors were open to the business associates of Matthew, and even the Pharisees were able to witness the event.
- ✚ To the Pharisees, the Tax Collectors were unclean sinners to be shunned, and it was unthinkable that a righteous man would dine with such.
- ✚ In the response Jesus gave to their criticism, Jesus expressed the heart of God toward sinners.
 - ✧ The sick need a physician, not the well.
 - ✧ The purpose of Jesus coming to earth, was to call the sinners to repentance.
 - ✧ The righteous need no repentance, because they are already in right relationship with God.
- ✚ This is very much in keeping with the message of Jeremiah and Ezekiel:
 - ✧ But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings. [Jeremiah 23:22]
 - ✧ Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live? [Ezekiel 18:23]
 - ✧ For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live! [Ezekiel 18:32]
 - ✧ "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?' [Ezekiel 33:11]
- ✚ **Go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice."** [Matthew 9:13]
 - ✧ For **I desire mercy and not sacrifice**, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. [Hosea 6:6]

- ✧ Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, **that He may have mercy on you**. For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him. [\[Isaiah 30:18\]](#)
- ✧ For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. **Mercy triumphs over judgment**. [\[James 2:13\]](#)
- ✧ God's heart desire, is that everyone, both Jew and Gentile, should come to repentance so He may extend mercy and forgiveness.
- ✧ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to **repentance**. [\[2 Peter 3:9\]](#)
- ✧ For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His **mercy** toward **those who fear Him**; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. [\[Psalm 103:11-12\]](#)
- ✧ But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to **those who believe**. [\[Galatians 3:22\]](#)