

Sermon Title: Follow

Sermon Series: The Way

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



The foundational principle of Christianity is The Gospel. Simply put, the Gospel is:

Christ died for my sins and rose from the dead, and I embrace it.

What path has Jesus encouraged people to _____ on?

Those least like Jesus liked Jesus.

Matthew 9:9a ESV

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth,

Who are First Century Tax Collectors?

1. _____ people who collected taxes and worked for Rome

“...customs taxes, import and export taxes, toll bridges, crop taxes, sales tax, property taxes, and special taxes when there was a war, building project or campaign to finance.”

—Patricia Kasten

2. They could charge above the Roman tax and _____ the difference.

Luke 19:8 ESV

8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have **defrauded** anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

3. Jewish people saw tax collectors as traitors and collaborators.

Sinners = excluded from religious society – felt God was distant because of this

Matthew 9:10 ESV

10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples.

Jesus gives an invitation to the outcast

Matthew 9:9 ESV

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "**Follow me.**" And he rose and followed him.

John 1:43-44 ESV

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."
44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

John 1:45 ESV

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

John 1:46a ESV

46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip doesn't defend Jesus or show proofs as to why He is the Messiah... He says 3 words...

John 1:46 ESV

46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Follow me = _____ me

It implies an investment

Matthew allows Jesus to be close and allows others to come and see

Matthew 9:10 ESV

10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples.

The Pharisees looked down on people

Matthew 9:11 ESV

11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Luke 18:11 ESV

11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

The Pharisees think they are healthy, but Jesus came for those who need help

Matthew 9:12 ESV

12 But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

Matthew 9:13 ESV

13 Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Jesus is saying He’s not about religion and ritual, but _____ and _____.

Jesus calls people to believe, but before he invited them to embrace and trust him, he almost always invited them to follow first.

Fundamental beliefs generally change in the context of _____.

If you are not a committed Christ follower, **Will you commit to _____ Jesus?**

Some Christians know the moment they trust Jesus, some, after following, notice they believe and now can put words to it - Romans 10:9 ESV

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

If you are a committed Christ follower, **Will you invite others to _____ Jesus?**