



#2, Jesus & Matthew

Matthew 9:9-13, 16:24-26, John 8:12

You're joining us this weekend in part 2 of our new 6-week series called, ONE! When I consider the massive crowd reach of Jesus' ministry, I am always amazed when I place myself into one of the many 1:1 interactions that Jesus had with men and women. This weekend, we're listening in on Matthew's conversation with Jesus and then having dinner at his place. This conversation is one of the most compelling invitations we find in the gospels when we read it in its cultural context!

Matthew 9:9

- Matthew, also known as Levi, was a Roman Empire Tax Collector!
 - 1st century tax collectors were Jewish sellouts to the oppressive Roman Empire.
 - After overtaking Israel, Rome had unjustly and oppressively occupied their land!
 - Religious-minded Jews considered tax collectors to be worse than thieves and murderers, *the scum of culture!*

Truth #1: Jesus sees us.

- Jesus saw Matthew and He sees us right where we are today.
 - Jesus saw something in Matthew that no one else could see.
 - I believe that Jesus is calling each one of us today because we also have worth.
 - The town saw Matthew, the TAX COLLECTOR!
 - But, Jesus saw Matthew, THE FUTURE DISCIPLE!

Truth #2: Jesus calls us.

- Not only does Jesus see each one of us, He also calls each one of us.
 - Jesus knows the condition of our hearts and He still says, let's "do" life together!
 - *Because, no one is too far removed from God to hear and respond to His call.*

When Jesus says, "Follow Me", what does he mean?

Matthew 16:24-26

- Following Jesus requires denying ourselves!
 - Denying self means trusting His leadership!
 - Denying oneself requires a deep belief that Jesus wants the best for our lives.
 - *It believes that Jesus is leading us down a good path!!*

Q: Do you believe that Jesus wants the best for your life?

I am convinced that following JESUS is the greatest gift known to man!

A life without Jesus has NO hope, NO meaning, and NO real direction!

- **Jesus invites Matthew to be his disciple without rubbing his face in his sin!**
 - I love how Jesus cuts through sin with radical love!
 - The Lord has a plan for each one of us!
 - *You have been handcrafted for the call of Jesus!*

And no matter the hell of your past, you can have a heaven-of-a-future!

- **Something changed in Matthew when he decided to follow Jesus!**
 - Life would never be the same again!! *He had decided to follow Jesus!*
 - His heart was changing from a heart of stone to a heart that was soft and moldable.
 - Matthew found the real treasure in life...Jesus!

Matthew 9:10

- **Matthew held a great feast in his house and look who he invites... HIS FRIENDS/ COLLEAGUES!**
 - Matthew wanted to share what He had found with those that he knew the best!

*Our Jesus is willing to TOUCH people
Our Jesus is willing to LOOK at people
Our Jesus is willing to LISTEN to people*

- **I want to see our church break into new tribal "Matthew" sub-cultures in our town...**
 - I am praying for some "Matthew's" to be saved in our church...
 - I want to *theologically* love the hell out of Colorado Springs and reach the "1st Century Tax Collector community"

Jesus is not looking for converts to Christianity; he's looking for apprentices in the kingdom of God!!

Matthew 9:11-13

- **Religious people always get upset when Jesus does things that they don't want to do themselves!**
 - I want our church to be known for uncompromising truth and uncomfortable love!

"Tax collectors and sinners"— were drawing near to Jesus.

- **Jesus preached hard-hitting, gritty and morally demanding sermons and yet sinners and tax collectors were drawn to Him.**
 - It wasn't because their behavior was affirmed.
 - It was because their value was affirmed.

Truth #3: Jesus sends us.

As a church, we must never get to a place where we turn so inward and think that we've got it so together that we forget about those outside these walls who are in need. My heart is broken for those that are in need of a life changing experience with Jesus! Jesus is still utterly committed to saving the world and not condemning the world!