

MARK 2:13-17 THE CALLING OF MATTHEW

• REVIEW:

INTRO:

- **Parallel passages: Mt. 9:9-13, Lk. 5:27-32.**
- **God gives us an in-depth look into Matthews calling, more than any others. Why?**
- **Once a tax collector, a publican, now a saved disciple, and evangelist, one of 12 Apostles and writer of the first New Testament book.**
- **One became a tax collector by bidding with the Roman government for the highest return of tax.**
- **His gospel was written in about 18-28 years after the death of Christ.**
- **He was martyred in Ethiopia in about 70 A.D.**
- **He preached the gospel there with much power and miracles.**
- **He was arrested, nailed to the ground and then beheaded.**

WHO IS LEVI: ,WHO ARE THE SCRIBES AND PHAISEES:, WHO IS JESUS:

WHO IS LEVI:

- **Both Mark and Luke call him "Levi." But Mt. calls himself Matthew. (The gift of God.)**
- **A Greek or Roman name.**
- **But notice his Hebrew name; Levi, born into the priestly line.**
- **What is he doing collecting taxes?**
- **A scandal in society, scorn not only on him but also his whole family.**
- **A tax collector was first Jewish, they were despised by the whole of the Jewish population for several reasons;**
 - 1) They collected money for the Roman government which forceful occupied their land, thus helping to finance and support the foreign invader.**
 - 2) They were famously unscrupulous growing wealthy at the expense of others of their own people.**
 - 3) Their work involved them in regular contact with gentiles rendering them ritually unclean.**
- **According to rabbinic literature, hatred was to be extended to them and even to their families.**
- **Lying to a tax collector was not considered to be wrong.**
- **They were viewed as the worst of society equal or worse than harlots, and were regarded universally no better than thief's and robbers.**
- **The gospels often labels them as sinners, and they are mentioned or singled out to highlight in the readers mind the depths that the grace and love of God will go to save even the worst.**
- **Lk. 19:10 I have come to seek and to save that which is lost is spoken directly regarding a tax collector, Zacchaeus.**

- It is interesting to note that of the 4 gospel writers Matthew speaks the most strongly against them.
- Tax collectors sat in their custom houses located at busy road ways checking everyone moving any goods either by land or water.
- Capernaum was on one of the busiest traded routes.
- Matthew would have been very wealthy, and full of earthly pleasure and comforts, yet he was empty and unfulfilled.
- There is much good to say about Matthew.
- He answered Christ's call immediately. Luke adds "he left everything behind." (NASB)
- He left everything completely and he was willing to share the message of the Messiah unashamedly.
- He longed for purpose, usefulness, love, affection and acceptance, peace of mind and soul.
- All this he gained by forsaking all earthly loves and security and clinging to Jesus.
- **Phil. 3: 7-9**
- Levi becomes a soul winner... He calls all his acquaintances to a "Great Feast." (Lk. 5:29)
- What Matthew now had in Christ was immeasurably more precious to him than his money, wealth and comfort. He had peace with God and this he wanted to share with others.
- VS. 14 "follow Me." Present imperative, = "be following me constantly."
- And Matthew's response, "he arose and followed Him." Indicates in the Greek, that this is what he did, he arose and followed Jesus constantly having left everything.
- Like William Borden of Yale, Matthew had could have testified about his life in Christ, "No reserve, No retreats, No regrets."

WHO ARE THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES:

- The scribes and Pharisees, though themselves sin sick unto death, refuse Jesus' soul healing ministry and deceived themselves, that all is well with them, and in their heartless condition they would let those whom they themselves call sick, perish. Their sin and guilt is double.

WHO IS JESUS:

- What does Jesus mean when He says to the Pharisees "they who are whole or well do not need a physician, those who are sick?" "I came not to call the righteous but the sinners to repentance?" (**vs. 17**)
- The Pharisees and scribes were sick and they were sinners, but they either so blind in their hearts due to pride deceiving themselves but not God or they were unwilling to acknowledge it or repent of it.
- **Rev. 3:17**

- Those who acknowledge, who know in their hearts they are broken, sick in soul, needing a Savior, knowing their emptiness are the ones whom Jesus has come to heal.
- They agree with the truth of the scripture that says, ""There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." (Rom. 3:11, 12)
- " For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23)

JESUS THE LAWS FULFILLMENT:

- For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.(Rom. 10:4)
- For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Rom. 8:3-4)
- For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor. 5:21)
- **Titus 3:5-7**

JESUS THE PHYSICIAN:

- VS. 17) Jesus likens Himself as a physician, healing not only those who are physically sick, but fulfilling His deepest calling, the healing of the soul.
- He alone can heal our eternal, God separating, hell bound sin sickness.
- He comes in our need, wherever we are, (house calls) He makes the perfect and accurate diagnosis, He then provides a final and complete cure and then He pays the bill.
- Sin is the sickness of the worst kind, but through Christ, repentance and forgiveness are healings for the soul.
- Christ is the souls Physician, able to heal all the souls' disease. The more grave the illness, the more broken the soul, the more eager He is to cure it.
- Only Matthew (**Mt. 9:13**) prefaces Jesus words, "I have not come to call the righteous, but the sinner to repentance with **Hosea 6:6**.
- It is a rebuke to the Pharisees and scribes and to all who will not extend mercy to others.
- This is to know and exhibit the nature of God.

CONCLUSION:

- We see in these verses the power of Christ to effectively call men out of darkness, sin and death, into life.
- He who effectively called Matthew is still calling today...