



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King and His mission!

Matthew 9:9-17

Message #27 of 80 – S1056

Sermon given on August 6, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King and His mission!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 9**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- One of the things that makes the Christian church unique in the world is its unity.
- This is remarkable when you consider the diversity of the church.
- We are a mixture of backgrounds, experiences, education, race, nationality, and spiritual maturity.
- But when we come together, we experience a oneness that is not natural to us.
- It comes from the Holy Spirit in us.
- You owe it to yourself to get to know the people of this church.
- Some of them might be a little weird, but most of them are interesting, and have interesting stories about their faith.
- That is why we do Social Sundays, so that you can get to know these people you will be spending eternity with.
- Only the power of the gospel can bring unity to people who are so different.
- The question we will wrestle with today is, ‘Is there someone who would not be welcome in ‘your’ church?’
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us check our hearts. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King and His mission!**
- In the last message we saw that Jesus, our Savior-King has the power to forgive sins.
- Forgiveness of sins is just the beginning of the story for true Christ-followers.
- **Matthew 9:9**
- Matthew is the human writer of this gospel.
- Matthew was sitting at his tax collection booth.

- Tax collectors are also referred to as publicans.
- He was focused on money and gain.
- Culturally, tax collectors were some of the most hated people in the community.
- They were often terribly corrupt and regularly extorted people for more taxes than they owed.
- They were considered on the same level with thieves and murderers, except that what they were doing was legal under Roman law.
- If Christ can save Matthew, He can save anyone.
- Matthew is an example of how Jesus can reach those who seem to be most consumed by worldly things.
- Not only is Jesus our Savior-King, but He is also our King of the impossible.
- Jesus can change any heart, no matter how hard or worldly it is.
- Just as Jesus called Matthew, He can call anyone into His kingdom (**Psalm 29:4**).

The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

- To follow Jesus, Matthew would have to give up a lot.
- Somehow, Matthew knew the spiritual benefit would far outweigh the material sacrifice (**Matthew 16:24-26**).

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

- Why did Jesus pick Matthew? Why did Matthew respond the way He did? We are not told why.
- It was God's sovereign grace poured out through Christ.
- It is how all of us were chosen (**2 Corinthians 4:6**).

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- The call of Christ is both mysterious and miraculous.
- Christ called Matthew to follow, and Matthew obeyed immediately.
- Salvation is the result of both the calling of Christ and the response of faith.

- Christ called Matthew to follow and then Matthew proved his faith by obeying Christ and following.
- Not only did Matthew follow, he responded by organizing a meal.
- **Matthew 9:10**
- ‘in the house’ – According to Luke’s gospel Matthew hosted this meal in his home.
- ‘at the table’ – They shared a meal in Matthew’s home.
- Jesus, God in the flesh, is eating with tax collectors and sinners.
- No ‘good Jew’ would do what Jesus is doing here.
- ‘sinners’ – All of Matthew’s friends and family were sinners.
- The tax collectors and sinners knew what they were.
- They had no illusions about the fact that they were living contrary to God’s law. They knew they were sinners.
- Mark’s gospel says that many of these sinners followed Jesus.
- Jesus actions offend the religious people who see Him eating with these sinners.
- **Matthew 9:11**
- Pharisees were a part of the religious establishment.
- The Pharisees are asking this question because they would never do what Jesus is doing.
- This will be a common theme throughout the gospels.
- If someone has a problem with something Jesus said or did, the problem is not with Jesus. The problem is with our faith.
- The Pharisees didn’t believe they were sinners.
- **Matthew 9:12-13**
- The Pharisees believed they were experts in all things relating to the things of God.
- They just referred to Jesus as Teacher and He responds by telling them they need to learn something about the Scriptures that that applies to this situation and His actions.
- Jesus quotes the words of the Lord given to the prophet Hosea (Hosea 6:6).
- They were well-educated in the Scriptures but were missing the meaning God intended in the Scriptures.

- There are some illnesses that are incurable.
- Doctors may be able to manage symptoms and slow the progress of the disease, but they cannot cure it.
- All humans are born with the incurable disease of sin.
- We were born with it, we will live with it, and we will die with it.
- Only faith in Christ Jesus can slow the progress of that disease and minimize the damage it can cause to our lives and the lives of those around us.
- The Pharisees expected Jesus to associate Himself with spiritual people.
- The problem with the spiritual people is that they didn't sense a need for the spiritual things Jesus was offering.
- Jesus didn't come to call the righteous – because there are no righteous for Him to call. (**Romans 3:10-12**)

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. ¹²they have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."

- They were sick people who thought they were well.
 - Or they were sick people who believed they had the cure for their sickness in themselves or in their religious activities.
 - What Jesus offers only works for those who know they are sick with sin and that only Jesus has the cure.
 - Jesus came to heal people of their greatest sickness – sin!
 - An important lesson for those of us who have been true Christians for any length of time.
 - As long as we are in these bodies, we will need Jesus' ongoing healing from the sickness of sin.
 - There is no vaccine or booster that you can take that will heal you completely of the sickness of sin.
 - It is only after Jesus comes and takes us to heaven that we are finally and completely healed of sin.
 - That is the point John is making to Christians in (**1 John 1:8**).
- If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

- Once we are believers, we are still sinners, sinners redeemed by the blood of Christ – forgiven for our sins – indwelt by the Holy Spirit – bound for eternity in heaven.
- As redeemed sinners we are now capable of not acting like sinners if we will surrender our will to God.
- If we ever lose sight of the fact that we are still sinners, though sinners saved by grace, we will start acting like the Pharisees.
- Another group approaches Jesus with a question about religion.
- **Matthew 9:14-17**
- There is a sense of disapproval in their question.
- The disciples of Christ were experiencing a greater freedom than they were, and their sense was that there was something wrong with the disciples.
- Only a couple of fasts are described in the Old Testament.
- The religious system of the Jews kept increasing the numbers of days of fasting until a strict Jew was fasting twice a week.
- It became a religious exercise that was void of spiritual meaning.
- Jesus uses three practical illustrations to make His point.
- The main point of all three is that Jesus' arrival as the Messiah changes how things were to be done.
- The old is to be replaced by the new.
- Everyone Jesus encountered was living under the old covenant.
- He came to bring a new covenant – in His blood and through His body on the cross.
- The main point of this message is that Jesus came to call sinners.
- Three quick things and then we will pray.
- First - If He called you and you responded, rejoice and praise Him.
- Second – If you are saved – you are a sinner saved by grace – but you are still a sinner that needs Jesus' healing daily.
- You don't need to be saved again – that was a one-time thing – but you do need to be cleansed.
- Third and finally – Jesus came to save every sinner you encounter as you go through your life.
- Look at them with the love and compassion of Christ.

- And if Christ gives you an opportunity, tell them what Jesus did for you.
- Jesus came to save sinners – thank you Jesus. Amen?!