

Title ideas:
The King and His mission!
The King has the power to forgive!

Matthew 9:9-17 - The King and His mission!

Scriptures:
Psalm 29:4 - The voice of the LORD is powerful;
The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

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?"

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.

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

G190 – [verb
present active
imperative]

and followed Him.

Matthew to follow, and Matthew obeyed immediately.

"The work of God in the conversion of one soul...is a more glorious work of God than the creation of the whole material world." Jonathan Edwards (O'Donnell, 2013) page 241-242

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.

Christ. Why is that we don't get that excited when a terrible person gets saved. God doesn't think or work like we do. Either one, the famous one or the terrible one is a sovereign, miraculous work of God and we ought to rejoice in it.

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).

To follow Jesus Matthew had to abandon his former life. As a tax collector, he wasn't very popular with the common people, but he would be very influential in the community. He would have likely been wealthy, or at least better off than most. To follow Jesus, he would have to give up a lot. Somehow, Matthew knew the spiritual benefit would far outweigh the material sacrifice (Matthew 16:24-26).

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).

The call of Christ is both mysterious and miraculous. Christ called

Notes:

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?'

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 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.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were called before Matthew. Try to imagine if Jesus suggested it was time to invite another person to follow Him in His ministry. Matthew would have been one of the last people they would have imagined. I love that. That means no one is beyond Christ's reach. It also means I need to be careful when I see people that I am not certain belong in the body of Christ. If Christ can save Matthew, He can save anyone.

As evangelicals, we often get excited when someone famous, rich, or influential gets saved. We imagine they will be a powerful witness for

Scriptures:

¹⁰ Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table

Notes:

'in the house' – According to Luke's gospel Matthew hosted this meal in his home.

in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors

'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.

and ~~sinners~~ came and sat down with Him and

'sinners' – All of Matthew's friends and family were sinners. Jesus' disciples had not received the Holy Spirit yet. They were unregenerate still. That explains many of the things they did and spoke. Until someone has the Holy Spirit, they will act like the sinners they are. 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.

G268 – "sinner n. — a person who has disobeyed any divine command or neglected any duty (whether intentionally or unintentionally)."

¹¹ His disciples.

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. Mark's gospel says that many of these sinners followed Jesus.

Scriptures:

1 Timothy 1:15 - This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...

¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to

Notes:

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.

¹² His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat

If someone has a problem with something Jesus said or did, the problem is not with Jesus. The problem is with our faith.

'disciple...Teacher' – Another name for a disciple is a learner. A disciple follows a teacher wherever they go and learns what the Teacher knows and does what the teacher does until they can master what the teacher knows.

with tax collectors and ~~sinners~~?"

They had misunderstood the mission of the Messiah. Whatever they imagined the Messiah to be, it didn't include Him in the company of well-known sinners. The apostle Paul would summarize the mission of Jesus (1 Timothy 1:15).

Scriptures:
1 John 1:8 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

12 When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them,

“Those who are well have no need of a

physician, but those who are sick.

Notes:

As a rule, I only go to the doctor when I need a doctor. If I don't sense a need that I can't remedy myself, I don't go to the doctor. When I got pneumonia last Christmas, I knew I wasn't going to deal with it myself – I knew I needed help.

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. 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 [\(1 John 1:8\)](#).

Scriptures:
Hosea 6:6 - For I desire
mercy and not sacrifice,
And the knowledge of
God more than burnt
offerings.

Romans 3:10-12 - As it is
written:

“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.”

13 But go and learn what *this* means: *I desire*

G3129 – [verb
aorist active
imperative]

G2309 -

Notes:

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.

mercy and not sacrifice. For I did not come

G1656 -
compassion

G2378 – offering
to God

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.

to call the righteous, but sinners, to

G1342 - just,
upright, i.e., being
in accordance
with God’s
compelling
standards.

G268 – v10.

G3341 - a change
of mind which
results in a
change of
life(style).

repentance.”

Scriptures:

14 Then the disciples of John came to Him,

saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees

fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"

G3522 – "to
fast v. – to
abstain
from
certain
foods, as for
religious
reasons."

Notes:

There is a sense of disapproval in their question. The disciples 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.

Scriptures:
Ephesians 5:25-27 -
Husbands, love your wives,
just as Christ also loved the
church and gave Himself for
her, 26 that He might
sanctify and cleanse her
with the washing of water
by the word, 27 that He
might present her to
Himself a glorious church,
not having spot or wrinkle
or any such thing, but that
she should be holy and
without blemish.

15 And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of

the bridegroom mourn as long as the

bridegroom is with them? But the days will

come when the bridegroom will be taken

away from them, and then they will fast.

Notes:
Jesus is the bridegroom. All true
Christ-followers are the bride. In the
same way a human bridegroom is
relating to his bride, Jesus relates to
His bride the church spiritually. He
takes care of her, provides for her,
protects her, leads her, loves her,
sympathizes with her, bears with
their weaknesses, and never rejects
them.

Because they have the incurable
disease of sin, human bridegrooms
cannot live up to Christ’s high
standard as they relate to their
brides. But we are to try ([Ephesians
5:25-27](#)).

At a wedding, when the bride and
groom are together it is a time for
celebration, not fasting. Jesus was
there in their presence. He is the
bridegroom preparing His bride.

‘the bridegroom will be taken away’
– Jesus always knew how things
were going to turn out. He always
knew the cruel cross was a part of
His future – it was why He had come.

Scriptures:
Matthew 26:28 - For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

¹⁶ No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on

an old garment; for the patch pulls away from

the garment, and the tear is made worse.

Notes:
Jesus had come to institute a new covenant with humanity ([Matthew 26:28](#)). The religious fasting John's disciples were asking about was a part of the Old Covenant. This is a warning about trying to fit Christianity into other religions or vice versa.

For hundreds of years God warned the Israelites about the dangers of the religious practices of the nations around them. He warned them that if they allowed those other religions in, they would defile their relationship with God and He would have to take extreme action to deal with it. They ignored God's warnings and allowed the worship practices of godless nations to influence their worship of God. The consequences were dramatic and tragic. With the final exile to Babylon, they were mostly cured of that practice.

17 Nor do they put new wine into old

Notes:

In both examples, the cloth and the wineskin, the old is damaged, and the new is applied to try to repair the damage. In both cases, using the new to try to repair the old only ruins both. The old must be completely replaced by the new. As Christians we are called to abandon all old forms of worship for Christ.

wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the

wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined.

But they put new wine into new wineskins,

and both are preserved.”

[Top of section](#) [Top of chapter](#)