

Life Edited: As Jesus Passed Forth
Matthew 9:9-13

Part Two: EVANGELISM

As we walk learn how to adjust to this new version of life we are seeing new opportunities: **life**, **education**, **career**, **community**, **ministry**

Learning how to evangelize in this edited life has been unique but there are some timeless truths we can learn about the Gospel from the way Jesus called Matthew to follow Him and obey.

“The church that does not evangelize will fossilize.”
— Oswald J. Smith

1. THE GOSPEL HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE YOU - V. 9

"And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom:"

A. A Place of Gospel Opportunity- from thence -

- The City of Capernaum in Galilee - Galilee of the Gentiles
- It was in Capernaum of Galilee that Jesus established the headquarters for His earthly ministry:
- He chose each of His disciples from here with the exception of Judas Iscariot
- He performed His first miracle here
- Most of the 33 recorded miracles took place here
- 19/32 Parables were taught here

B. A Person of Gospel Opportunity -

He saw a man - Jesus didn't see a tax collector and stop there; he saw Matthew. He was a man, a soul to be understood and forgiven, to be empowered and employed.

His name - man's gift of God. Where he used to take from others he is now a gift to others.

His occupation - sitting at the receipt of custom he was a tax collector. As a class, the tax collectors were despised by their fellow Jews. They were allowed to gather more than the government required and then to pocket the excess amount.

two classes of 'publicans': the tax-gatherer in general (Gabbai), and the Mokhes, or Mokhsa, who was specially the douanier or custom-house official.

Although both classes fall under the Rabbinic ban, the custom-house official, such as Matthew was, the object of chief execration because his exactions were more vexatious, and gave more scope to rapacity. The Gabbai, or tax-gatherer, collected the regular dues, which consisted of ground-, income-, and poll-tax. The groundtax amounted to one-tenth of all grain and one-fifth of the wine and fruit grown; partly paid in kind, and partly commuted into money. The income-tax amounted to 1 per cent.; while the head-money, or poll-tax, was levied on all persons, bond and free, in the case of men from the age of fourteen, in that of women from the age of twelve, up to that of sixty-five.

If this offered many opportunities for vexatious exactions and rapacious injustice, the Mokhes might inflict much greater hardship upon the poor people. There was tax and duty upon all imports and exports; on all that was bought and sold; bridge-money, road-money, harbour-dues, town-dues, &c. The classical reader knows the ingenuity which could invent a tax, and find a name for every kind of exaction, such as on axles, wheels, pack-animals, pedestrians, roads, highways; on admission to markets; on carriers, bridges, ships, and quays; on crossing rivers, on dams, on licences, in short, on such a variety of objects, that even the research of modern scholars has not been able to identify all the names. On goods the ad valorem duty amounted to from 2 1/2 to 5, and on articles of luxury to even 12 1/2 per cent. But even this was as nothing, compared to the vexation of being constantly stopped on the journey, having to unload all one's pack-animals, when every bale and package was opened, and the contents tumbled about, private letters opened, and the Mokhes ruled supreme in his insolence and rapacity.

The very word Mokhes seems, in its root-meaning, associated with the idea of oppression and injustice. He was literally, as really, an oppressor. The Talmud charges them with gross partiality, remitting in the case of those to whom they wished to show favour, and exacting from those who were not their favourites. They were a criminal race, to which Lev. xx. 5 applied. It was said, that there never was a family which numbered a Mokhes, in which all did not become such.

2. THE GOSPEL INVITES YOU TO A DECISION TO OBEY CHRIST - v. 9

"...and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him."

A. **He saith unto him**- lego - to exhort, advise, to command, direct, to call by name

B. **Follow me.** - this means to lay down your life and pick up that of another. To employ yourself to the service of another. Not seeking out the self serving desire, but to fully please the desires of another.

He didn't say, "follow me if..." **better life** **education** **relationships** **financial stability** **more popularity**

**"The Gospel has never been about making your life better.
It has always been about obeying the Lord."**

C. **Follow me (exclusively)**- not me and.... cause, creed, denomination,

Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after **me**, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow me**.

Jhn 12:26 If any man serve **me**, let him **follow me**; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve **me**, him will *my* Father honour.

D. **And he arose, and followed him.**

Arose - word picture of rising from the dead; to come into existence.

Eph 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

E. **What it is to follow Christ**

- A. **Repentance** - Turn away from your own way turn your back to your old way, renounce old life of sin, turn your back to the world and sin
- B. **Trust** - Matthew Trusted Past, Present, Future - Prov. 3:5-6
- C. **Submission**- to put under the authority of Christ. You take a back seat and follow Him. Matthew 11: 28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

3. THE GOSPEL MOTIVATES YOU TO BRING OTHERS TO JESUS - v. 10

*"And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many **publicans and sinners came and sat down with him** and his disciples."*

A. Where did these publicans and sinners come from? Matthew invited them to come to Jesus
What a great passage on determination & Faith -

The faith of Matthew is so evident here because he wanted others to learn of the same freedom and forgiveness he experienced in Jesus. He was committed to bringing other people to Jesus.

Johny Hunt says about Faith

FAITH SAYS:

- 1. There are always many who will never reach Jesus unless someone takes them.**
- 2. If there were more brining believers, there would be more saved sinners.**
- 3. Faith is to believe Jesus would meet the his need.**
- 4. Faith puts feet to the prayers.**
- 5. Faith will not permit the difficult circumstances to discourage you.**
- 6. Faith is cooperating with Jesus and daring to do something about it.**

4. THE GOSPEL CAN DEAL WITH YOUR DOUBT AND QUESTIONS - v. 11-12

A. Doubt- *“And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, **Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?”***

The Pharisees failed to see that everyone needs Jesus -

B. The Gospel exists for me because I am sick. -
*v. 12 - But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that **are sick.***

My sin makes me a candidate for the Gospel.

5. THE GOSPEL CALLS YOU TO REPENTANCE - V. 12

*“But go ye and learn what that meaneth, **I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**”*

A. I will have mercy-

B. The Call To Repentance - Turn away from your own way turn your back to your old way, renounce old life of sin, turn your back to the world and sin

“I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell.”

— General William Booth

CLOSING:

Jesus followed this up with an illustration (parable) of the new wine in new bottles. Jesus is demonstrating the work of new life in the new man Matthew.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Here is an exercise that will help you apply the teaching. Consider discussing these questions with someone else:

1. Why do you think people often are hesitant to share their faith in Christ?
2. Who is someone you recently shared the Gospel with?
3. How can you grow in your participation of leading others through the Gospel?
4. Describe why it seemed such a miracle when Jesus saved Matthew.
5. Take time this week to post on social media or call a friend to share your testimony.