

Matthew 9:9 Mathew's Call to the Ministry

Introduction: In our last text Jesus was at Capernaum where He healed a paralytic man. In our text today He is still in or near Capernaum.

I. The man, Matthew “he saw a man named Matthew.”

A. Both Mark and Luke call him “Levi.”

1. It was not uncommon even in that day for a man to have two or more names. (Simon Peter or Cephas.)
2. But there is no doubt that Matthew and Levi are the same man.

B. Matthew was sitting at the receipt of customs.

1. The receipt of customs was a tax office where taxes were levied and paid.
2. At Capernaum was such an office on the border between two districts.
3. Everything carried across the border to be sold was taxed.
4. Fish caught by the fishermen at Capernaum was the main commodity taxed at this station.

C. Matthew was the tax officer (publican) at this office.

1. He would remember Peter and Andrew and James and John who used to bring lots of fish through his office.
2. He had heard that they had quit fishing and had started working full-time for Jesus.

II. Matthew's conversion and baptism.

A. Some time ago Matthew had heard about John the Baptist holding revival services on the banks of the Jordan River.

B. He had gone down to hear John preach.

1. John preached about sin and repentance.
2. He preached about the promised Messiah and urged all to believe in the Messiah.
3. He informed them that the Messiah would soon come.
4. He baptized all who repented and expressed faith in the Messiah.

C. Matthew repented, trusted the Messiah and was baptized. (Acts chapter 1)

III. Matthew's call to preach.

A. Matthew was already saved and baptized.

1. He was still working at the tax office.
2. He had heard about Jesus in Capernaum and he knew that the disciples claimed that Jesus is the Messiah.
3. He probably had begun to suspect that He is the Messiah.
4. He may have been thinking about this when a great crowd stopped at his office. (Jesus was in the midst.)

B. Jesus said “Follow me.”

1. This was a call to give up the job as publican. (That was a good paying job.)
2. It was a call to go where Jesus would lead.
3. It was a call to sit at Jesus' feet and learn.
4. It was a call to preach. (Full-time.)

C. Would Matthew answer that call?

1. Would he leave that good paying job?
2. He had trusted Messiah to save; would he trust Him to provide? (He had not even provided for Himself. 8:20)

- D. Matthew arose immediately and followed Jesus.
 - 1. Luke says that Matthew left all and followed Jesus.
 - 2. He left the tax office behind and followed Jesus.
 - 3. When God calls a man to preach He wants Him to leave the old way of life behind.

IV. The preaching of the Word today.

- A. Today Matthew is gone and it is up to others to preach.
- B. I am one of those whom God has called to preach.
- C. I have not chosen the ministry as my profession.
- D. I do not preach to entertain.
- E. I do not preach to get folks to like my preaching.
- F. I am to preach the word of God whether anybody likes my preaching or not.
- G. I am here to tell lost sinners that they need to repent of their sin and trust Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

- 1. Right now I call on every unsaved person to repent and to trust Jesus Christ.
- 2. I call on every saved person to be baptized and to join a New Testament church.
- 3. I cannot call anyone to preach, but if God has called you, I call upon you to commit yourself to the task.

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