

Series: Teaming Up With Christ (4/29/18)

Title: Matthew

The Circumstances of Matthew:

His References:

Only Mentioned 8 times in the NT.

4 Reference Him in the list of Apostles.

4 Reference His Conversion.

His Speaking:

Not 1 statement of his is recorded in NT.

Matthew, James of Alphaeus, Simon Zelotes

3 have No recorded statements in NT

His Names: Given 2 Names

Matthew: 5 references:

Levi: 3 references

After his call, Simon's name was changed to Peter.

Levi's name was changed-Matthew: 'Gift of Jehovah'

His Family: (Mark 2:14) "*The son of Alphaeus*"

No evidence that James of Alphaeus were brothers.

His Occupation: (Luke 5:27)

Publican -Receipt of Custom-Tax Collector

He collected taxes for Rome. the Occupying Gov.

A Customs Officer for Herod Antipas. Provincial Gov.

Both governments were known for high taxes, corruption, graft, extortion, & stern Methods.

As a Jew, He was considered a traitor to his people.
A Social Outcast.

He would have had to have been reasonably educated.
Able to speak multiple languages.

Matthew had the position in Capernaum.

Zacchaeus had his position at Jericho. (Lk 19:1-2)

The Conversion of Matthew: (Matt 9:9)

Only recorded incident of his life is his Conversion.

No other event is more important than Conversion.

The Need for Conversion:

Matthew's Life was full of Corruption.

He was Hardhearted b/c of sin:

He would oppress others for his own Gain.

Anything they could extort over & Above the normal tax bill was theirs to keep.

They had the Roman guard as their enforcers.

The Power of His Conversion:

The tax office is a most unlikely place to be saved.

Displays the power of Christ to witness on the job.

The Opportunity for His Conversion:

(Mark 2:14) *And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me.*

This was literally a Passing Opportunity.

(2 Cor 6:2) *now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*)

God is Always ready, Thankfully Mathew was too.
If you procrastinate, the opportunity may pass, or you might pass.

(James 4:14) *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

Are you Saved?

Jesus is Passing By right now & calling you.

The Object of His Conversion: Jesus!

This was a direct call of Jesus to Conversion.

(Mark 2:14) *“Follow Me”*

Our faith is on Jesus, or there is no Conversion.
A Christ-less Theology is just empty tradition.

Illus: An theist husband, asked me to pray at the funeral for his Agnostic wife, & not mention Jesus.

What do you say?

Without Jesus, no one is listening.

The Obviousness of His Conversion:

(Mark 2:14) *And he arose and followed him.*

The Evidence was plain to see because of ...

What he left behind: *“And He Arose”*

(Luke 5:28) *“He left all”*

(Luke 5:11) Peter, Andrew, James, & John understood
“they forsook all, and followed him”

When Jesus called, Matthew Answered

This was a politically powerful & lucrative office.

This was an appointment by a family friend, or purchased for a %.

He was giving up his present income stream.

He was was giving up his future income stream.

This was not an offering you could put in the plate, but it was still an offering by Matthew.

What have you given up for Jesus?

What have you sacrificed for conversion?

What he left for: (Mark 2:14) *“And followed him”*

No One could deny his conversion.

His actions was clear evidence.

Is there clear evidence of your conversion?

Can others See it?

The Outreach After His Conversion:

(Luke 5:29) *And Levi made him (Christ) a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.*

The Use of His Home: (Lk 5:29) *in his own house:*

***Have you ever used your house for Outreach?
How about the the cafeteria at work or school?***

I like to use the other person's kitchen table.

The Broadcast of His Faith: (Lk 5:29) *there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.*

Matthew was NOT a secret disciple.

***Its one thing to put on a show in public, but are you
a genuine christian in your natural habitat?***

He confessed his faith in Christ openly to his friends.
He honored Christ in his home in front of others.

Is Christ Honored in your Home?

Can people tell its a christian home?

How is Christ honored in your home?

The Burden for Others: (Lk 5:29) *there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.*

Matthew had a social network of friends.

He invited them to a feast, b/c they would not listen to Christ publicly.

They would have been ridiculed by the crowd.
They needed a "Safe Space" to hear the gospel.

***Do you have a burden for those in your social
network?***

Is your home a friendly, Safe Space for the Gospel?

The Opposition to His Conversion: (Mk 2:16) *And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?*

The way the houses were laid out, it would be like people looking into your backyard, observing your picnic.

The Scribes & Pharisees were snooping so they could ridicule Christ.

The Criticism showed their opposition to the Gospel and the Conversion of Lost Souls.

The Sureness of the Opposition:

When the work of Christ is Progressing the devil will be protesting.

Not everyone agrees with my method of outreach.

So what is your method of Outreach?

Is it working?

If you have a method,& it works, lets do yours.

But until you get one, & Do it, I'll stick to mine.

The Source of the Opposition:

They were the Religious crowd.

They were the ones that complained about the abuse and sinfulness of tax collectors.

Are we just content to complain about sinners, or do something about it by reaching them with the gospel.

Greatest Method of Social Reform is Evangelism.

The Subtleness of the Opposition:

(Mark 2:16) *How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?*

They were making an argument about purity so as to sound spiritual.

Jesus was not with evil people, doing evil things, in an evil place to promote their evil.

Christ was not Sanctioning Worldly behavior.

He was eating a meal in the home of a sinner, surrounded by sinners, so he could evangelize them.

Christ was not participating in sinful behavior to look spiritual while satisfying his flesh.

Are you willing to interact with sinners, in a non-sinful way, so they can receive the gospel?

The Composition of Matthew:

Matthew made a huge contribution to God's Kingdom

The Characteristics of the Book:

The Culture Emphasis: It is written to the Jews.

There are a lot of Cultural references.

Matthew presents Jesus as King.

Mark wrote to the Romans (Jesus the Servant)

Luke wrote to the Greeks (Jesus the Man)

Specific References to the:

The Holy City & the Holy Place.

“Son of David”, confirming Jesus right to the throne

Fulfillment of Prophecy: 16 times

The Kingdom of Heaven: 32 times

The Prophets: 39 times

The Mosaic Law: 14 times

The Coins Mentioned: As a Tax Collector, he makes more references to money than the other 3 gospels.

The Condemnation Focus:

The Criticism of the Pharisees at his supper is probably the reason that he has the most scathing rebukes recorded.

Matthew highlights the opposition of the Pharisees to Jesus teaching.

Matthew also highlights the way Jesus knew what they were doing, and how he put them in their place.

Nothing definite is known of Matthew's career.

After preaching in Judea, his missionary work & possible martyrdom is in northern Iran.