

Made For Mission
Week 1
We Are Called
Matthew 9:9-12

“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me”, he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “it is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick.”

Have you noticed that people are constantly seeking and looking for their purpose so that they can be a part of something bigger?

This is much bigger than just a Christian thing; people will work for a lot less money if they really believe in what they’re doing. Wealth does not always equal happiness, people want their lives to be about something bigger.

Look with me at **verse 9 “As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collectors booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.”**

The fact that Jesus approached Matthew says so much here. You guys have heard me say it before but tax collectors were seen in that culture as the worst of the worst. Tax collectors were Jews that had sold out their own people in order to become wealthy. People absolutely hated them. Out of the hundreds of people that was around Jesus, Matthew

would be the last person that you would pick to train up and send out to change the world.

Think of it in terms like this, if you're a fantasy football person you will get this. Think about your first pick in the first round, nobody uses their first pick for a backup punter. That's Matthew, the backup punter.

This is incredibly significant for us because if Matthew is called, that means we are called to. Each believer is called to leverage his or her life for the spreading of the gospel. The question is no longer whether we are called, only where and how.

Those in The business world, why did God place you in business? Surely not to just fill your life with all kinds of comforts so you can spend the last 20 years of your life on vacation. He has given you your talents as a means of blessing others and as a platform to spread **the mission**. What if we all started seeing our jobs as an actual calling from God? How would that change your attitude, your perspective, and the way you see your coworkers?

Look at Jesus's invitation to Matthew. He doesn't say, "get in line" or "do what I do." He simply says, "follow me." Jesus invites Matthew first into a relationship with him. Their relationship was not the byproduct of them doing ministry together, the relationship was the assignment. The ministry is what would come from them spending time together. The Christian life is not about doing stuff for God but being with God.

Matthew is obviously shocked that Jesus approached him at all, but it is also remarkable how Matthew got up immediately with no questions asked. Why drop everything? Jesus' invitation was a bit vague to begin with. After all Jesus only said "follow me." He didn't say his name, where they would be going or what they would be doing, not even what would be in it for Matthew.

Jesus' invitation is from sitting to following.

What does Jesus call on Matthew's life require of Matthew?
Movement! He must get up!

The moment he took a step he was **on mission** what a step of faith required.

Look at **Matthew 9:10** “**While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciple.**”

Before Matthew 9, Matthew was a text collector but now he is Matthew the missionary. When you go from sitting to following, God is going to Internally start changing the way you start seeing things in your life. God will transform how you use your resources. God has blessed me and you with stuff that can be used for **the mission**. This means you will begin to look at your possessions and resources differently.

God will also transform how you see your relationships. Matthew gathered a bunch of people together at his house so that Jesus could speak into them. Matthew was probably the best chance his friends had in meeting Jesus.

I guess the question for us today is are we investing our time and resources into who can pay us back or are our eyes on a reward not found in this world?

Matthew 9:11 “**When The Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?**”

You were not made to fit in, you were made to stand out. When you're on mission you're not living for the approval of man but for God.

Galatians 1:10 "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Don't waste your time trying to please people. We've been called by God and we are made for this mission. I want to pause right here to show you a movie clip from the movie Hacksaw Ridge. This should be our attitude moving forward. What if everyone of us simply have the attitude of let me tell one more person about you Lord. Jesus would you use me to teach just one more person. If we all did that, we double as a church immediately and so many lives would be impacted for the glory of God. Next week we are going to talk about the mission that God has specifically and uniquely invited Each of us into.