

Message Notes

Matthew 9:9-17 (ESV)

“Follow Me: Like This”

June 18, 2017

We Are Invited to Consider:

◆ The Gospel’s Power

“The promise of the gospel’s transforming power is when you come to Christ, your old self is evicted and a new self arrives.” (Bill Hybels)

“I was striving . . . but now I’m grateful.
I was self-destructive . . . but now I’m healthy.
Guilty . . . now liberated.
Fear-stricken . . . now confident.
Despairing . . . now hopeful.”

◆ The Gospel’s Presentation

- ◆ Before Eternal Life Was Entered
- ◆ When Eternal Life Was Embraced
- ◆ Since Eternal Life Was Experienced

◆ This Gospel’s Person

“He (Jesus) demonstrated that the authority of his messianic kingdom has not come with military or political might, but with a goal to overpower Satan’s strongholds within nature, the demonic world, disease and, most importantly, sin.” (Michael Wilkins)

We Are Invited to See:

◆ A Redemptive Rescue (Matthew/Levi)

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. (Matthew 9:9)

◆ He Served in a Despised Occupation

- ◆ Treated as Traitor
- ◆ Tempted to Theft

◆ He Accepted an Offer

“He said not a word, for his soul was in the speechless surprise of unexpected grace.” (Alfred Edersheim)

◆ He Fulfilled a Destiny

“He lost a career, but gained a destiny; lost his material possessions, but gained a spiritual fortune; lost his temporal security, but gained eternal life.”

(John MacArthur)

◆ He Threw a Party

And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. (Matthew 9:10)

“It is a far more important event than being married . . . or receiving a great fortune. It is the birth of an immortal soul! It is the rescue of a sinner from hell! It is a passage from death to life! It is being made a king and priest for evermore! It is being provided for, both in time and eternity! It is adoption into the noblest and richest of all families, the family of God!” (J. C. Ryle)

◆ **A Resistant Rebellion**

◆ **The People Involved (Lay Reformists Applying Mosaic Law)**

And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” (Matthew 9:11)

◆ **The Practice Is Exposed**

“More interested in preserving tradition than helping sinners; more eager to examine than encourage; more likely to condemn than forgive; more interested in conformity than compassion” (Pastor Dave)

◆ **A Proper Response Encouraged (Amos 5:21ff)**

But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matthew 9:12-13)

“Ritual separated from righteousness is a sham and an affront to God. . . . Traditions are what humans have designed to apply biblical principles to everyday life, but they are not commands from God. They can be helpful if practiced appropriately, but they can be stifling if they become more important than scriptural revelation itself.” (Michael Wilkins)

◆ **A Righteous Renewal**

◆ **The Perspective Invited: Joy in Jesus’ Presence**

Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.” (Matthew 9:14-15)

“Spiritual growth is not automatic through observance of spiritual disciplines.” (Michael Wilkins)

◆ **The Possibility Illustrated: New Life from Jesus’ Person**

No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.” (Matthew 9:16-17)

“As Christ fills our life, unneeded qualities are expelled, new spiritual capacity expands, fills and expands again . . . and again.” (Pastor Dave)

We Are Invited to Ponder

- ◆ **Where Am I: Receptive Like Matthew?**
- ◆ **Who Am I: Rebellious and Rigid as Pharisees?**
- ◆ **What Am I: Growing in Christ-Likeness?**

*Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

(Romans 12:2)