

# REDEMPTION CHURCH

## He Saves Us | Week 3: *The Tax Collector*

### MATTHEW 9:9-13

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. <sup>10</sup>And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup>But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

### SEE ALSO

[Mark 2:14-22](#); and [Luke 5:27-38](#).

### RESOURCES

Lucas Miles' book, [Woke Jesus, The False Messiah Destroying Christianity](#)

Alisa Childers book, [The Deconstruction of Christianity](#)

Megan Basham's new book, [Shepherds For Sale](#)

Tucker Carleson & Doug Wilson discuss [Christian Nationalism](#)

In week 3 of our series, "He Saves Us," we turn our attention to the story of Matthew the tax collector.

This is the first of our stories where we don't observe an "obvious" outward miracle. There is no leperous cleansing, nor a life-changing physical healing ...but there is a life-changing, eternity-altering miracle (the most important kind)!

### Notes:

Matthew, referred to elsewhere as Levi, was most likely the son of a priest. He grew up religious and had "deconstructed his faith" –abandoning the orthodoxy of his childhood and family. He, like many today, embraced the government so much that he thought it should be god over God. Sound familiar?

Matthew had become what we'd recognize as a modern-day statist and liberal –worshipping the state and self instead of God. And what did Jesus do? He called him out of it!

### Verse 9, "...he saw a man."

Jesus set the example for us to see through the crowds to see the individual.

### Verse 9, "...and He said to him, 'Follow me.'"

No speech or sermon, Jesus just gives the most simple, yet profound, call of all. Notice Jesus' Gospel. It is the same Gospel Paul would later talk about to the Corinthians ([1 Cor 1:18-25](#)).

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*  
~Romans 1:16

### Jesus teaches some very important things about the Gospel:

- It was effectual (Matthew responded)
- It was immediate
- It was simple
- It was permanent
- It was transformative (Matthew would've been on our "list" of friends "who would never come to Christ.")

## Love for the Lost

*"We love because he first loved us."* 1 John 4:19

## Humility & Surrender

*And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."* 1 Cor 1:30-31  
([see full passage](#))

## Love for the Church

*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.* 1 Jn 3:14-16

## NOW WHAT?

Let us advocate & contend rightly for the Gospel of truth. We must also understand how to defend against current lies & heresies.

This includes:

- Reading & studying the Word.
- Checking other resources (see page 1).
- Not being influenced by the lies of this world.

Matthew responded; so the simple, honest, and loving call worked. We see how immediately the Gospel changed Matthew's life –creating a compulsion to connect with all those who were still under the spell of what he had come out of. So what did Matthew do?

**Verses 10-11, "...and as Jesus reclined at a table in the house...**

*("And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at the table with them." Luke 5:29)*

**He threw a party; and, in doing so, taught us signs of a true conversion.**

**Sign #1: Love for the lost.**

The salvation of one opens the door for many. In his humility, Matthew didn't see himself as better than any of his friends. Humility says, "If Christ could save me, He can certainly save you!"

**Sign #2: Humility and Surrender.**

He throws a party at his house and his expense. He doesn't note that here, though the other accounts do (Luke 5:29). True conversion leads to an immediate change in how we value and leverage our resources (time, energy, and money). It also produces a humility that doesn't want to take credit for what God can and is doing.

**Sign #3: Love for the church.**

Matthew invited both Christ **and** His disciples. We do not come to Christ and then hate His followers (or His Church). The "deconstructed Matthew" realizes that his reconstruction, if genuine, must involve love for the Church.

An obvious way we see the hypocrisy of modern liberals is how much they hate Christians and the body of Christ. True conversion will never lead us to that point we say, *"I love Jesus, but I can't stand the Church (or other Christians)."*

Now let us move to the question that was posed by the Pharisees in **verse 11**, *"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"* Notice who it was posed to: the disciples –that's us! We have a responsibility to know and to share the truth.

**Verses 12-13, "...but those who are sick"...**

We are ALL sick outside of Christ until we are saved. Despite the Pharisees' belief that they could be "good enough," we can not earn it (sacrifice). The only path is mercy (the Gospel)!