

Matthew

“They were Called”



“You are like salt for all mankind. But if salt loses its taste, there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless, so it is thrown away and people walk on it.” Matthew 5:13 Good News for Modern Man

“I was having a wonderful life - at least that is what I thought many times. I had lots of money and I was flying high. But something was missing. I am Matthew a tax collector and the more I collected, the more I got to keep because it was based on a percentage. I was searching to find out what I was supposed to be doing in life. I had heard about a man named Jesus who was living among us and people I talked to told me He had the answer to my questioning. He spoke of love and healed people from their physical illnesses as well as spiritual illness.

“One day I was sitting at the desk where I sat to collect the taxes from the people and Jesus walked by. I know now that He knew I was looking for Him. He approached me and said ‘Follow me’ and I did it. I never returned to tax collecting. My master was no longer in Rome. He knew I was a sinner, but He loved me! What grace. We went on and talked with many people.

“The Pharisees saw us and questioned because they kept the law and they felt they were the best. They were very self-righteous. They didn’t need anything. But they wondered why this man Jesus was concerned about those sinners in the daily life. They were worthless. They didn’t approach Christ himself, but they came to us and asked why Jesus was eating with publicans and sinners. Christ heard them and answered ‘They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.’

“I saw a ruler come to him and ask Him to heal his daughter, even though the ruler thought his daughter was dead. I saw the blind healed. He commissioned us to go out and heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils and freely give but we weren’t to take, and if people rejected us we were to shake the dust of our feet and move on. He told us we would be sheep among wolves and we were warned to be wise, but most of all speak as the Spirit of God led us to speak.

“At one time, I thought I had it all. I was wrong then, but I can only tell you that you will have everything you ever wanted and much more if you take up the cross and follow the Jesus I love.”

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father so many times we look at nature and see the beauty and take it for granted. We eat food daily, and sometimes we stop to give thanks for it. Help us to realize that we are the salt of the world, we are the light of the world, and only through us can You forward Your work to others on this earth so that someday we may all join You eternally. Help us to be proud to be the salt. Help us to make a difference. Help us to show love to all, even the publicans and sinners like ourselves. In thy name we pray. Amen.

1. Are we just salt? A tiny grain in the world? Aren’t we more important than that?
2. Are we willing to follow? What is the reward? What was the reward for Matthew?
3. Are we the salt of life? Can we make a difference in everyone else’s lives by what we do, say, and even think?
4. Are we willing to give all that we have on this earth to have eternal life with Him?