



MATTHEW

Disciple of Jesus



Matthew was able to see beyond his sin and realize Jesus could save him and forgive him—just as Jesus can for any of us.

LIFE BEFORE DISCIPLESHIP

- He was called the son of Alphaeus (Mark 2:14)
- He was a Jewish tax collector, or “publican” (Matthew 10:3), which meant:
 - He worked for the Roman government, which ruled over the Jewish nation of Israel at that time
 - He was probably wealthy, at least compared to most other Jews
 - He was detested by his own people because tax collectors were regarded as traitors, getting their livelihood from the very government that was oppressing their own people
- Was called by Jesus to be a disciple while sitting in his tax booth in Galilee
 - All Jesus said was, “Follow Me” (Matthew 9:9) and without hesitation, Matthew rose and left everything
- Threw a party for Jesus, inviting Him and His disciples and other tax collectors to be among his guests (Luke 5:29)

LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE

- No sin is too great to turn from
- You don’t have to travel to a foreign country as part of a big effort to bring others to Christ
- We, too, can help our neighbors and friends come to know Christ in a way they’ll understand
- We don’t have to be popular, smart, or liked by anyone for God to use us
- Like Matthew, we too can become a great witness for Jesus, if we let Him lead us

LIFE AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

- His calling is actually the only story about him in the Bible
 - Any other times he resurfaces in the New Testament are merely in listings of the disciples (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13)
- Is referred to as “Levi” in Luke’s account of the party for Jesus (Luke 5:27, 29)
 - Levi may well have been his Hebrew name, while Matthew was his Greek name
 - Considering how identical the conversion stories are in the first three Gospel accounts, it’s unlikely that “Levi” would have referred to a separate person altogether
 - Luke even calls Matthew “Levi,” but in the next chapter, when listing all the disciples, Luke calls him Matthew (Luke 6:15)

AFTER JESUS’ ASCENSION

- Not much is recorded in the Bible itself about his life after Jesus’ ascension
- Other sources from the early centuries suggest that his travels took him to Persia, Macedonia, Syria, or a region below the Caspian Sea then called Ethiopia. But we don’t know exactly what he did.
- Many different accounts have emerged from early Christian writers surrounding his death, ranging from natural death to various types of martyrdom
- Wrote the Gospel of Matthew
 - It is sometimes debated if this is truly the case; however, most of the evidence points to Matthew as the author of the Gospel
 - The church of the first few centuries AD believed he authored it
 - There are clues throughout the Gospel that suggest someone with a financial background like a tax collector would have authored it:
 - The Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:12 uses the word “debts” rather than “sins”, which is the word used in Luke’s account of the Lord’s Prayer (Luke 11:4)
 - The Gospel of Matthew is the only book that records Jesus’ parable of the talents (Matthew 18:23-35)
 - He tailored his Gospel account to be read and accepted by the Jews. He begins with a genealogy of Jesus, connecting Him to King David and Adam, and quotes numerous Messianic prophecies in his Gospel, all designed to help the Jews believe that Jesus was indeed the Messiah