



Leadership Through Discipleship

Learning to Lead
by Living to Follow

Terry R. Baughman
Lead Pastor

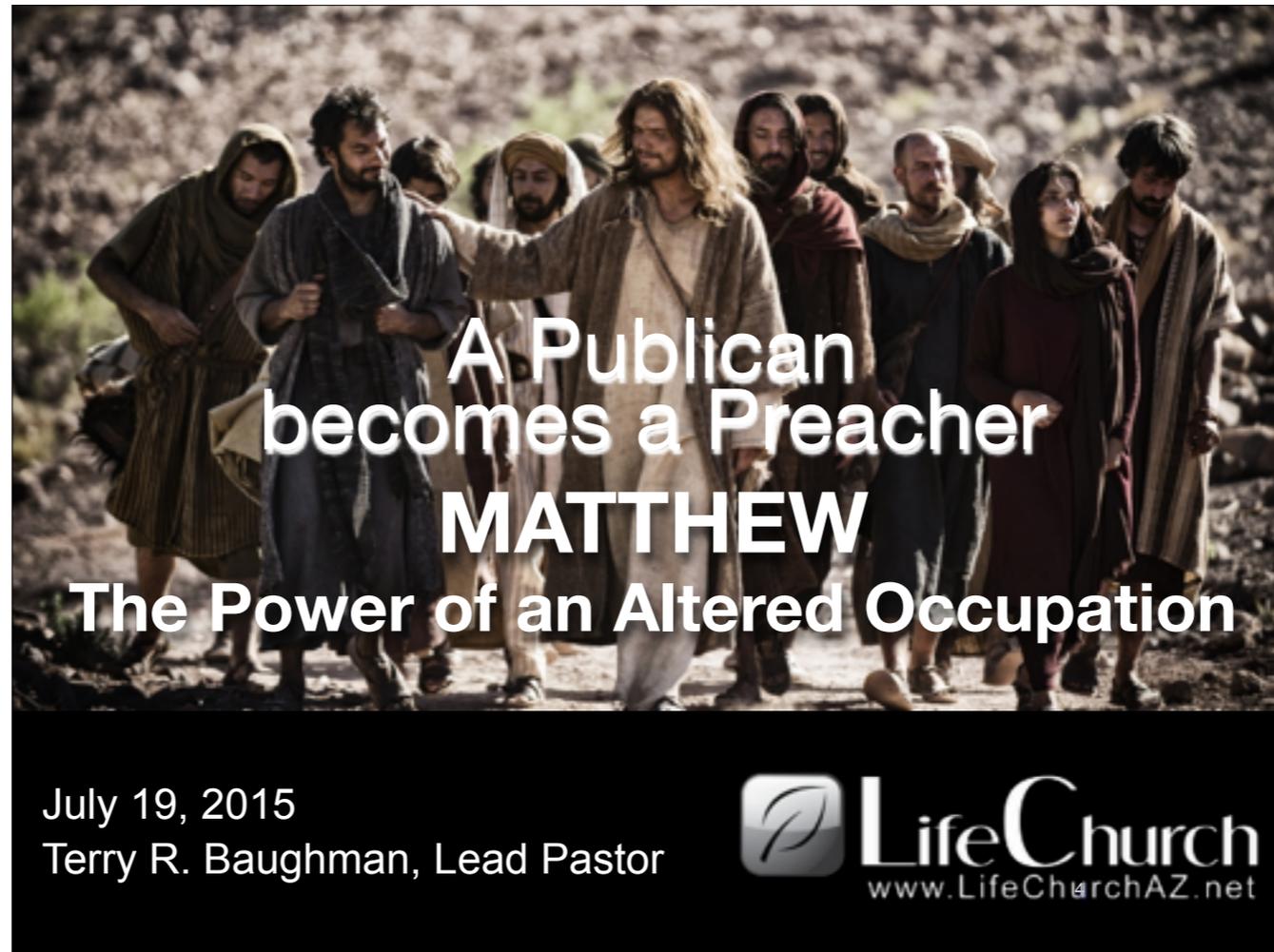
 LifeChurch
www.LifeChurchAZ.net



“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”

—Matthew 9:9-10

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”
Matthew 9:9-10



The Publican becomes a Preacher. The call changes Levi to disciple. A Leader learns that a changed life can lead to more effective evangelism.

NKJ Mark 2:14 As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.
15 Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.

16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"

NKJ Luke 5:27 After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me."

28 So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.

29 Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them.

30 And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

A Publican becomes a Preacher

Matthew

The Power of
an Altered
Occupation

 Life Church
www.LifeChurchAZ.net



Matthew, The Power of an Altered Occupation

From the prominent office along the main thoroughfare Matthew conducted business in Capernaum. All merchants entering this town from the sea were required to pay a toll to transport their goods along the way. Matthew was about as popular in his city as a meddling IRS agent in ours. Following the customs of the day, tax collectors contracted with the Roman government to be their agents collecting tribute. Any amount they could collect in excess of the required tax went into the deep pockets of the tax collector. It was a system rife with abuse and provoked the intense hatred of their fellow citizens.

From the Life Application Bible:

“Tax collectors were expected to take a commission on the taxes they collected, but most of them overcharged and kept the profits. Thus, tax collectors were hated by most Jews because of their reputation for cheating and because of their support of Rome. A Jew who accepted such an office was excommunicated from the synagogue and shamed his family and friends. Thus a Jewish tax collector was looked down upon for valuing money over reputation, respectability, purity before God, and concern for his own people, who had to pay extremely high taxes to the imperial power.

“The tax collector’s booth was an elevated platform or bench. Everyone knew who Levi was, and anyone passing through the city who had to pay taxes could find him easily. Levi’s tollbooth taxed commercial goods being transported from the sea to land routes. Obviously this was not the first time Jesus saw Levi, for Jesus walked these shores many times. Apparently Jesus observed in Levi what he could use in his ministry. For example, Levi’s attention to detail and careful record-keeping skills can be seen in the way he wrote the first Gospel. Certainly Levi had seen Jesus before and, with the crowds, probably had been amazed at this incredible man.”



“Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”

—Matthew 9:10

“Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”
Matthew 9:10

—Luke 5: 29 Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them.
30 And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

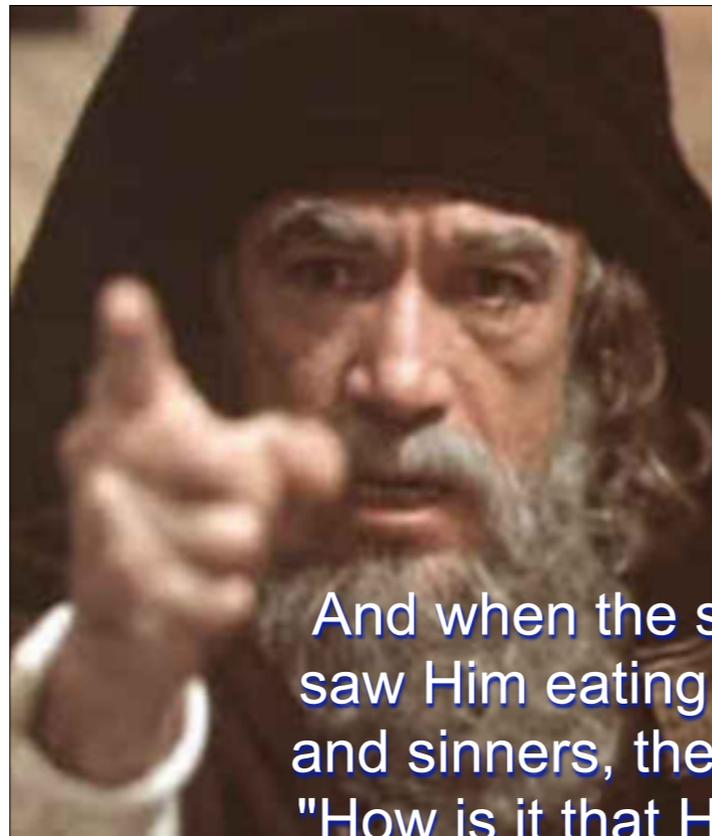


- Now it happened, as He was dining in *Levi's* house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.

- Mark 2:15

7

—Mark 2:15 Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.



Jesus was
accused of
being a
“friend of tax
collectors”

And when the scribes and Pharisees
saw Him eating with the tax collectors
and sinners, they said to His disciples,
"How is it that He eats and drinks with
tax collectors and sinners?"

— Mark 2:16

Tax collectors and sinners – despised by the Pharisees
Jesus was accused of being a “friend of tax collectors”

NKJ Mark 2:16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus — “friend of tax collectors” – What are we accused of?

NKJ Matthew 11:18 "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'

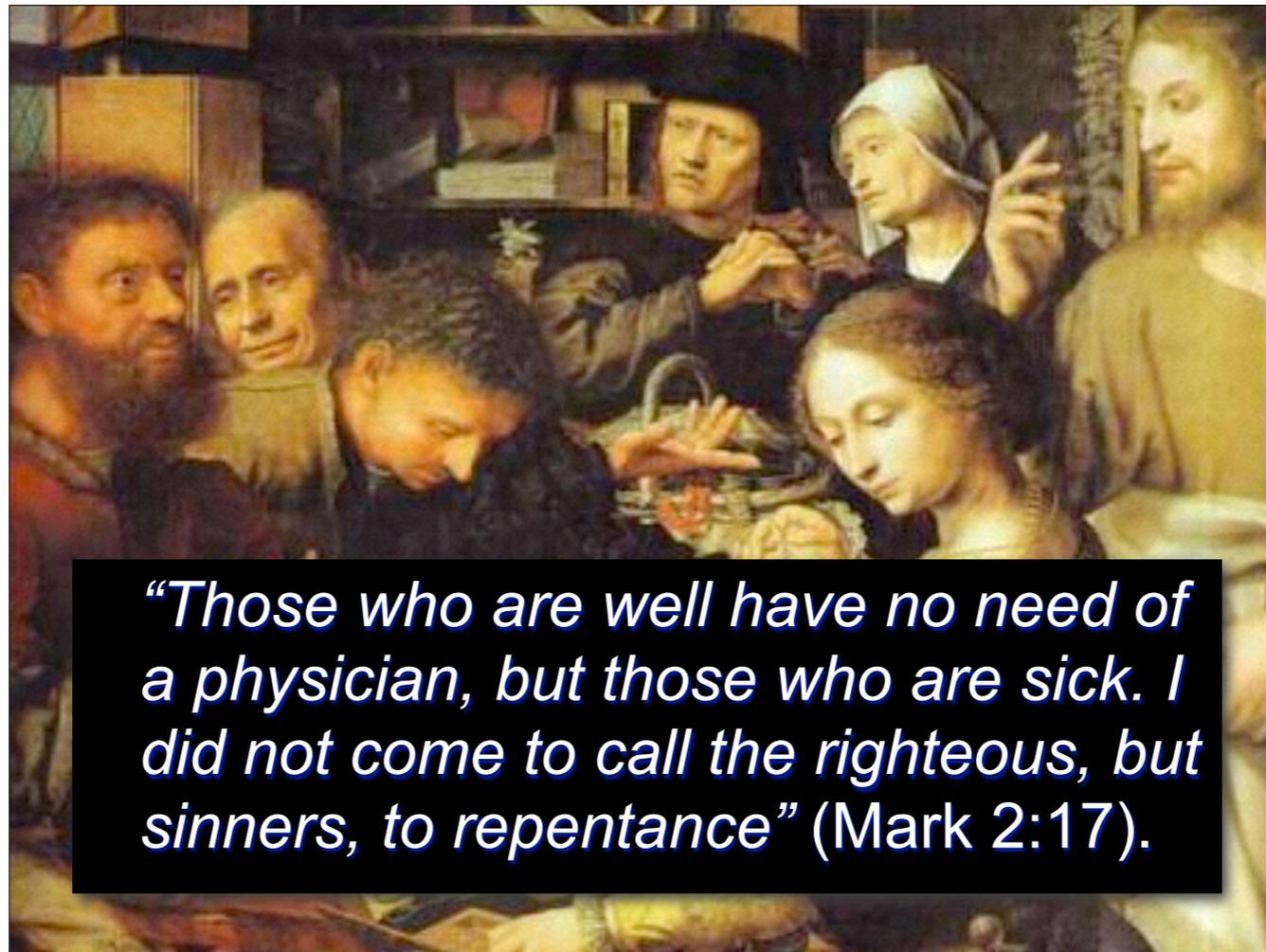
19 "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children."



— Matthew was able to bring his friends to Jesus. The purpose of Christ's ministry is illustrated in this setting.

Matthew was a witness to other tax collectors.

— They were all welcomed at Jesus' table



“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance” (Mark 2:17).

He explained to the Pharisees, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance” (Mark 2:17).

That’s why he came ... to minister to the sick and sinners

IF JESUS DIDN'T EAT WITH SINNERS,

I WOULD STILL BE *lost* AND *hungry*.



*“If you were arrested
for being a Christian,
would there be
enough evidence to
convict you?”*

12

Seen in a pastor's office “If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”

Some of the strongest criticism by Jesus was leveled toward the pseudo-religious, the Pharisees and Sadducees:

NKJ Matthew 21:28 " But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.'

29 "He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went.

30 "Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go.

31 "Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

32 "For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.

(This was written by a former tax collector! A publican)

A Change of Occupation

- Some occupations will be unsuitable to Christian living.
- Christ still comes without condemnation to say “Come follow me!”



Some occupations will be unsuited to Christian living. Christ still comes without condemnation to say “Come, follow me!”

When Jesus came by the tax office as He journeyed, He simply called Matthew to “follow me.” In the brief reference of Scripture it appears that Matthew immediately responded, leaving behind his secure position in the city to follow the bidding of this itinerant Rabbi. The radical change in Matthew’s life produced curious interest among his network of unscrupulous colleagues. When Matthew threw a party to announce his new direction in life the house filled. Jesus was there dining with an unlikely guest list. According to the Pharisees they were all “tax collectors and sinners.”

Jesus was not put off by the publicans. He welcomed them and spoke kindly to them in the face of criticism. This was the type of people He had come to affect.



Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."
— Luke 15:1-2

Jesus explained His association through the three parables of lost things in response to the Pharisees criticism.

NKJ Luke 15:1 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

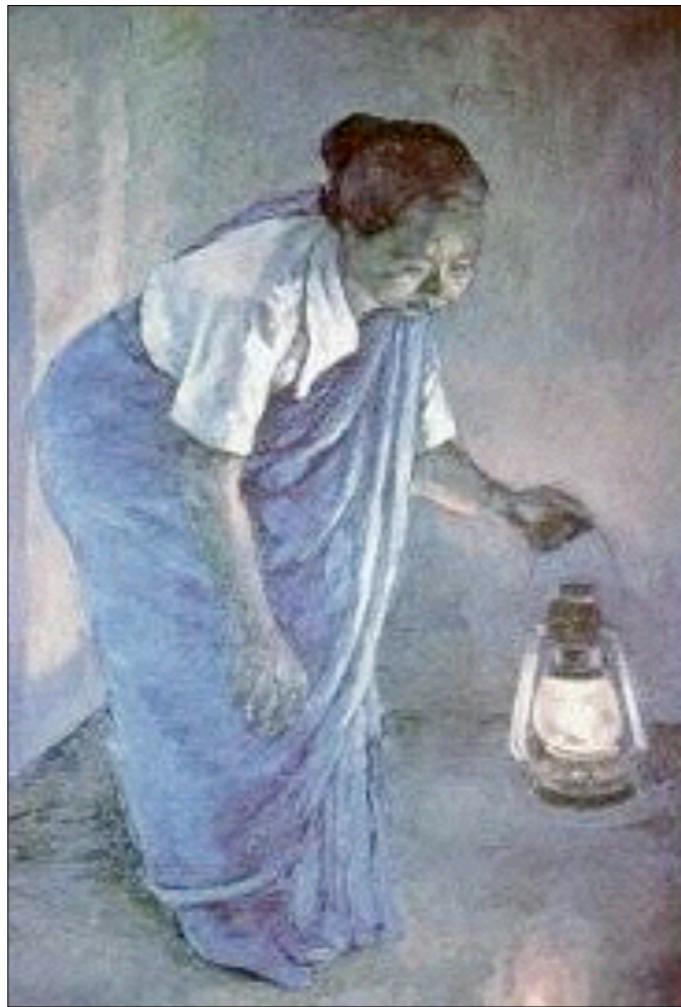
- Lost sheep
- Lost coin
- Lost son (the eldest son did not join in the rejoicing)



The Lost Sheep

Jesus explained His association through the three parables of lost things in response to the Pharisees criticism.

- Lost sheep
- Lost coin
- Lost son (the eldest son did not join in the rejoicing)



The Lost Coin

Jesus explained His association through the three parables of lost things in response to the Pharisees criticism.

- Lost sheep
- Lost coin
- Lost son (the eldest son did not join in the rejoicing)



Jesus explained His association through the three parables of lost things in response to the Pharisees criticism.

- Lost sheep
- Lost coin
- Lost son (the eldest son did not join in the rejoicing)

The Other Brother

- Luke 15:28 "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.
29 "So he answered and said to *his* father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.'"

18

28 "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.

29 "So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.

...

The Other Brother

- Luke 15:30 'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.'

32 'It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

19

30 'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.'

32 'It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "



Matthew was changed by the call. One who sought financial gain through the “gift” of others becomes “a gift of the Lord”

Several commentaries agree that Levi the tax collector’s name was changed on the occasion of his call by Jesus. Mark and Luke give the parallel account of Levi, the tax collector, being called by Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew uses his new name in his account. He was thereafter called Matthew “a gift of Yahweh.” — All lists of the apostles include Matthew (Matt. 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13).

*** The publican became a preacher. The call changed Levi, the tax collector **to** Matthew, the disciple of Jesus!

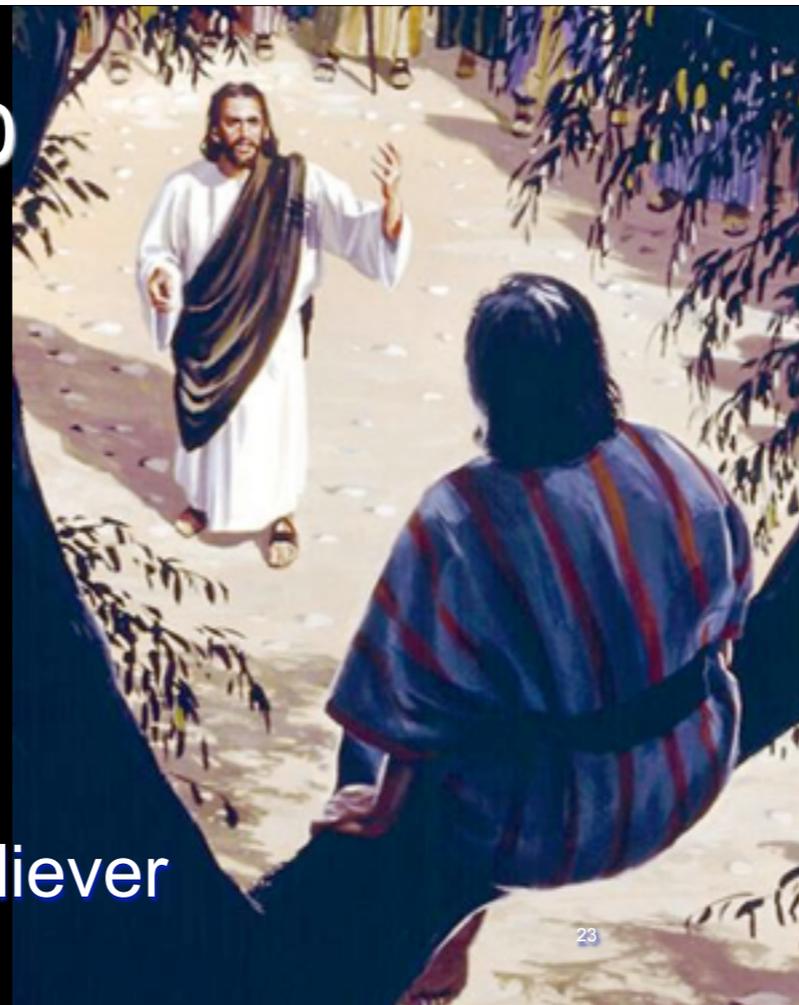


When Christ calls,
change is on the way!

When Christ calls, change is on the way!

Luke 19:1-10

- Zacchaeus, another tax collector who became a believer



The call changed Matthew (Levi) to become a disciple; the publican became a preacher. What an incredible impact the change in his life must have had to others of similar occupations. If Matthew could change, others could change. Perhaps this was the encouragement needed for Zacchaeus, another tax collector that became a believer, to make the pledge to restore all that he had wrongfully taken (Luke 19:8).

Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector in Jericho, is curious to see Jesus. Due to his short (vertically challenged) physical size he climbs a tree to be able to see Jesus when He passed by. (See Luke 19:1-10)

Just because a former tax collector became a disciple Jesus didn't change His reference to them to be more "politically correct." Jesus ranked tax collectors (publicans) with the harlots (Matt. 21:31), and Matthew himself classes the publicans with sinners (Matt. 9:10).

A Leader's Legacy is the story of his own discipleship

- Because of Matthew's call and response, we have the Gospel of Matthew
- Andrew was John the Baptist's disciple when he converted to follow Jesus.
- Luke was a physician that became an itinerant evangelist, traveling journalist, and the first church historian.
- Paul was an activist opposing the spread of Christianity. God changed him into the biggest activist for Christ!

Because of Matthew's call and response, we have the Gospel of Matthew. A leader's legacy is the story of his own discipleship.

From the devo:

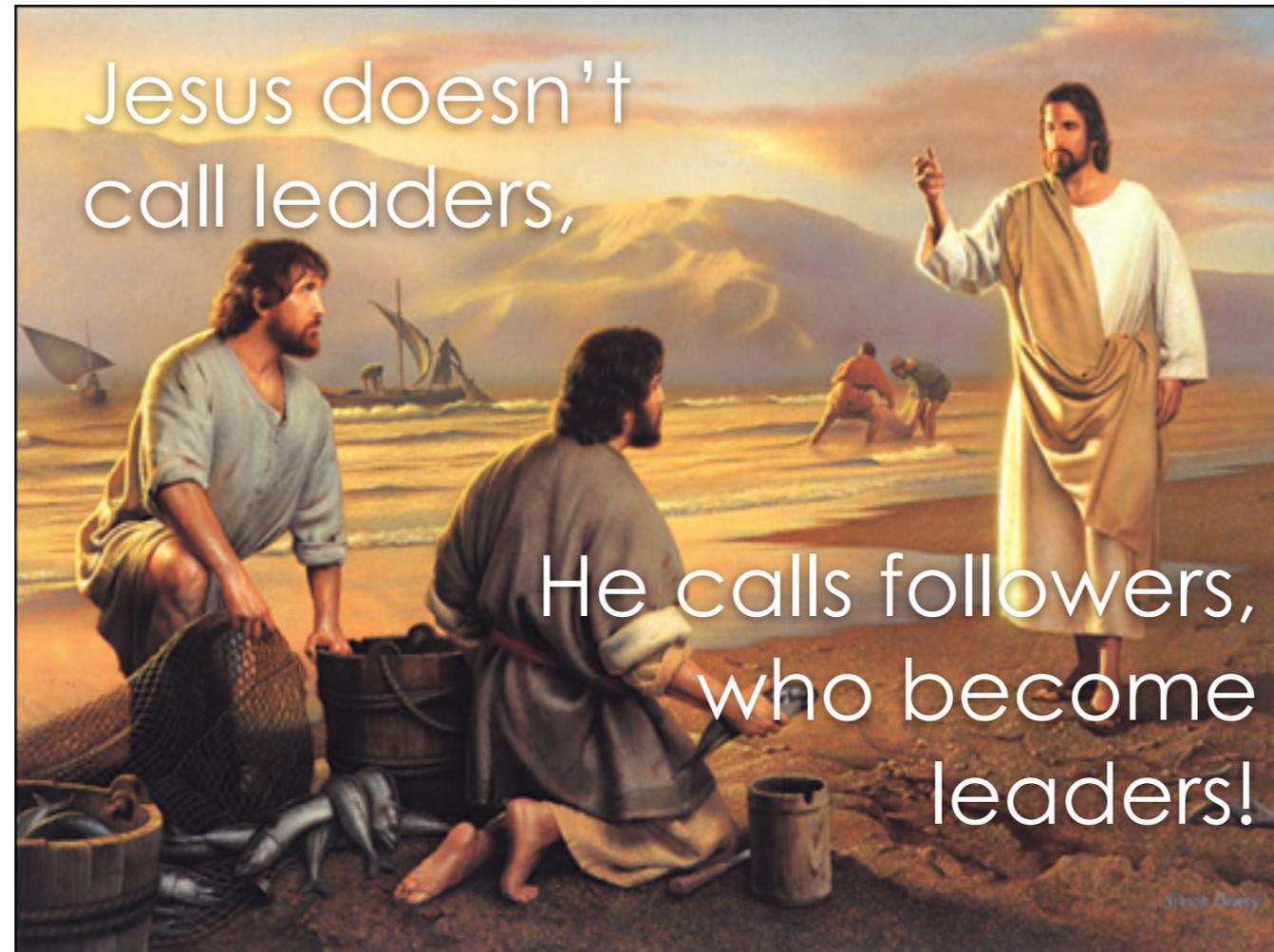
Matthew wasn't the only one who changed occupations. Several of the disciples were fishermen; Jesus made them evangelists, fishers of men! Andrew was John the Baptist's disciple when he converted to follow Jesus. John the Baptist pointed out Jesus as the "Lamb of God" and immediately lost two disciples! Luke was a physician that became an itinerant evangelist, traveling journalist, and the first church historian. Paul was an activist opposing the spread of Christianity. God changed him into the biggest activist for Christ!



Of all the Gospels, Matthew's has probably been the most influential. Second-century Christian literature quotes from the Gospel of Matthew more than from any other.

—The church fathers placed Matthew's Gospel at the beginning of the New Testament canon, probably because of the significance they attributed to it. Matthew's account emphasizes Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. It stresses that Jesus was the promised Messiah, who had come to redeem all mankind.

Matthew may have been related to the disciple James, since each of them is said to have been a "son of Alphaeus" (Matt. 10:3; Mark 2:14). Luke sometimes uses the name Levi to refer to Matthew (cf. Luke 5:27–29). Thus some scholars believe that Matthew's name was Levi before he decided to follow Jesus, and that Jesus gave him the new name, which means "gift of God." Others suggest that Matthew was a member of the priestly tribe of Levi.



Jesus doesn't call leaders,
He calls followers,
who become
leaders!



Leadership Through Discipleship

Learning to Lead
by Living to Follow

Terry R. Baughman
Lead Pastor

 LifeChurch
www.LifeChurchAZ.net