

Text: Matthew 9:9-13

Subject: Following the Lord Jesus as His Disciples

Focus: The Call of Matthew

INTRODUCTION

1. The Synoptic Gospels

a) Matthew

b) Mark

c) Luke

2. Why were they called "Synoptic Gospels"

a) The word "synoptic"

i) Seeing together a common view of the Life of the Lord Jesus

ii) Presenting together the life of the Lord

b) These Gospels can be:

i) Studied together

ii) They can be compared meaningfully

3. Reading the Gospel of Matthew

a) The word "Gospel" has a few nuances

i) Good news

ii) A book about the Life and Teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ

b) Some reasons for reading the Gospel of Matthew

i) To learn about the Life of the Lord Jesus Christ

ii) To discover the Teachings of the Lord

iii) To appreciate the significance of how Christianity became a world-wide Faith, from a humble origin

iv) To find a genuine and personal Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to develop it

- b) Rome ruled with an iron fist
 - i) Europe
 - ii) The Middle East
 - iii) Israel (our focus)
- c) Kings (Herod) were appointed by the Roman Emperor

2. Religion

- a) Many religions were tolerated by Rome
- b) Judaism in Israel was also allowed

3. Religious Life as practised by Israel in the 1st Century

- a) There was one temple
- b) There were many synagogues
- c) There was a religious council
 - i) It was called the Sanhedrin Council
 - ii) There were 70 leaders who formed this council
 - iii) It was headed by a High Priest
- d) There were different Sects
 - i) Pharisees
 - ii) Sadducees
 - iii) Herodians
 - iv) Zealots
- e) Some were:
 - i) Scribes
 - ii) Sometimes called “lawyers” (experts in the Law of Moses)

iii) Elders

iv) Rulers of synagogues

f) Religious View of Life (From the standpoint of the Pharisees)

i) They despised "tax collectors" Matthew 9:11a

ii) They were regarded as "sinners" Matthew 9:11b

iii) These were to be shunned

THE VERY DIFFERENT APPROACH TAKEN BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

⁹ 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.

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. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Matthew 9:9-13

1. He invites sinners to Follow Him
2. He was like a physician (spiritual) to the sick
3. He came with a heart full of mercy
4. He came to call sinners to repentance

CONCLUSION

1. Be interested to learn about the Lord Jesus
2. Be challenged to discover Faith in the Lord
3. Be open to Follow the Lord Jesus as a disciple