

## “RISING TO THE CALL”

Matthew 9:9-13

*Pre-conference: Face the issue of calling. Matthew is sitting at his job – and Jesus invites him to follow/calls him. And he arose...Rising to the call.*

**Matthew 9:9–13** 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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup>When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>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.”

### I. THE CALL

#### A. Our story begins with Human plans: *Matthew at the tax office*

1. Lucrative: You gave the Romans a set percentage – but you were able to ask whatever you wanted!
  - a. A sure-fire way to get rich: *Live in luxury/future security*
2. But Jesus called Matthew **V9** *He said to him, “Follow Me.”*
  - a. Other disciples: Uses the word called; *Invitation to a purpose*

#### B. Jesus sees potential in us that we can’t see!

1. Matthew was not searching for another job – thinking “*I can do something great with my life*”
  - a. Maybe he chose tax collecting b/c of his character flaws in the first place: *This is what I can do...*
2. Your life can be more than money/job/career/hobbies! It can have an eternal purpose
  - a. *Me: I wanted to work on cars...Preaching: That’s what I want you to do. I left cars behind – never returned to them*
3. If you live for yourself – at the end of your life; It’s over/finished – and does no more good for you

#### C. It is Almighty God that calls: *Jesus is God in the flesh*

1. We can view this as a program...that’s what we do at the PH: They just got caught up
  - a. *4x Paul says I am an Apostle...by the will of God!*
2. You can’t ignore that: You can’t treat that as just another option in life: *We will answer to God!*

### II. THE RESPONSE

#### A. We have to act on the call

1. **Calling is a turning away from**
  - a. Character flaws of the past: **V9** *at the tax office...*
    1. This is deceit/greed/abuse – and it was working for him!
      - a. Selfishness/abusive behavior/manipulation may be working for you – I need to change!
    - b. We have to turn from our own plans: *Calling wasn’t the plan - \$ was! Career...*
2. **Calling is a turning to: V9** *...So he arose and followed Him.*
  - a. Follow is a direction word: *I direct my life...time/interests/focus – on Jesus and His call*
    1. Jesus is the focus...not a title/ministry
3. **Calling has a time frame: V9** *...So he arose and followed Him...apparently without delay*
  - a. If God calls – we don’t have the right to delay!
  - b. The longer you delay, the harder it will be to respond
    1. **Matthew 4:22** *And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.*
4. **Calling places what we have at Jesus disposal**
  - a. **V10** *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.*
    1. His house 2. For us: Our talent/money/time

### III. THE IMPACT

#### A. You can reach people personally: **V13** *For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”*

1. Through witnessing/evangelism/going out: *People will be saved/lives can be changed forever!*

#### B. You can reach people through your example:

1. We have never seen/met Matthew – yet his example helps us thousands of years later!
  - a. People see/watch – and your life can encourage/help/inspire them

#### C. You can reach people through discipleship:

1. You can pour your life into others – that will multiply the work of God – and your effectiveness
  - a. **2 Timothy 2:2** *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*