

— EXPOSITORY SERMON —

A *Changed*

LIFE



HE SAW HIM.
(GRACE)



HE CALLED HIM.
(POWER)



HE LEFT ALL.
(RESPONSE)



HE FOLLOWED HIM.
(TRANSFORMATION)



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH

LUKE 5:27-28



— *Pastor* —
MIKE HOLLOWAY

Text: Luke 5:27–28 (NKJV)

- “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.’ So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.”

INTRODUCTION: THE POWER OF A CALL

- This is not just a story about a man changing jobs. This is a story about a man changing **masters, identity, and desires.**
- Jesus walks into a place nobody respectable would go...
and calls a man nobody respectable would follow.
- The beauty of the gospel is this:
Jesus does not wait for sinners to clean themselves up—He calls them out of their sin.

THE WICKED LIFE OF A TAX COLLECTOR

- “He saw a tax collector named Levi...”
- To understand the power of this moment, you must understand what Matthew was.
- **A Profession Built on Exploitation**
- Tax collectors operated under a corrupt system:
- They abused the quota from Rome for profit
- They could charge whatever they wanted
- This wasn’t just business—it was legalized extortion

Matthew and the Marginalization of the Poor

- His Wealth Was Built on the Weak (Poor, Uneducated, Less influenced, etc)
- He Participated in a System That Crushed the Vulnerable
 - He actively participated in the oppression of his own people
- The poor were not only financially burdened—they were **socially diminished**
- Systems like this kept them:
 - Powerless; Dependent; Invisible
- Exploitation doesn't just take money—it takes **dignity**

Problem with the Jewish Tax Collectors

- Overcharged the poor, Manipulated valuations, Used intimidation
- Profited from oppression
- Think of Luke 3:12–13
- “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”
- Why did John say that?
- Because they were already taking more than they should.

A Traitor to His Own People

- Matthew wasn't just greedy—he was a collaborator with Rome.
- Rome = pagan oppressors
- Israel = God's covenant people
- So when a Jew became a tax collector:
- He was seen as a traitor to his nation
- And worse; a traitor to God

A Social and Spiritual Outcast

- Tax collectors were grouped with:
- Prostitutes, Thieves, and “Sinners”

Matthew 21:31 - “Tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.”

- Rejected socially - Excluded religiously - Despised publicly
- **Matthew represents the worst of society:**
- Corrupt. Compromised. Condemned.

THE UNEXPECTED CALL OF CHRIST

- “And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’”
- Jesus didn’t debate him.
- He didn’t shame him.
- He didn’t reform him first.
- **He called him.**

THE UNEXPECTED CALL OF CHRIST

- Jesus Calls the Unlikely
- Jesus saw what others ignored:
- Not just what Matthew was
- But what Matthew could be
- 1 Corinthians 1:27
- “God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise...”

The Call Was Personal and Authoritative

- “Follow Me” was not a suggestion; Rather, it was a command of authority.
- This meant:
 - Leave your lifestyle
 - Leave your identity
 - Leave your sin
- Jesus was not offering Matthew improvement
- He was demanding surrender

THE RADICAL RESPONSE OF MATTHEW

- “So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.”
- This is one of the most powerful responses in all of Scripture.
- He Left All – Matthew walked away from:
 - Wealth, Security, Power and Influence
 - He left a profitable sin for a costly Savior
 - Unlike fishermen who could return to nets.
 - Matthew burned the bridge.

Matthew Rose Up

- This speaks of:
- Immediate action
- Decisive obedience
- No delay; No negotiation; No “let me think about it”
- Psalm 119:60
- “I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments.”

He Followed Him

- This is not casual interest—this is total devotion.
- Following Christ means:
- A new direction
- **You cannot follow Christ and remain the same**
- Matthew didn't just change professions.
He changed **affections**.
- **Action** - A new allegiance - A new life


What He Once Loved, He Now Left

- He once loved:
- Money – Power - Exploitation
- But when Christ called him: Those things lost their grip
- What He Once Enjoyed, He Now Despised
- True conversion changes:
- Your desires - Your appetites - Your pleasures

What He Once Loved, He Now Left

- Romans 6:21
- “What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed?”
- The true believer looks back and says:
- “I can’t believe I loved that.”

A New Mind Produces a New Life

-  Romans 12:2
- “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”
- Conformed = shaped by the world
- Transformed = changed from within

- Salvation is not behavior modification
- It is mind renewal that produces life transformation

Christ's Desires Become Your Desires

- When you follow Christ:
- You begin to love what He loves
- Hate what He hates
- Pursue what He commands
- Psalm 97:10
- “You who love the Lord, hate evil!”