

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S6E14

Can God Save Someone Like Me? - (Luke 5:27-32)

Description – Last week we talked about how hated Tax collectors were as a group. This week we'll continue to look at the conversion of Matthew and how it impacted those around him.

Last week we looked at the conversion of Levi / Matthew from the gospel of Mark, today we're going to look at it in a parallel account in the gospel of Luke.

As a reminder we use the CSB harmony of the gospels:

<https://www.amazon.com/CSB-Harmony-Gospels-Steven-Cox/dp/1087768462/>

Luke 5:27-32

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ So, leaving everything behind, he got up and began to follow him.

²⁹ Then Levi hosted a grand banquet for him at his house. Now there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining at the table with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

³¹ Jesus replied to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a doctor, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Matthew has to be wondering to himself, "Why on earth is this Rabbi coming and talking to me?" Doesn't he know who I am? Doesn't he know what I've done?

Word gets around fast in a smaller town. They had to have heard about the miracle working Rabbi who helped Peter & John bring in the miraculous catch of fish out on the lake. The entire town had to be talking about it.

Matthew had probably heard or overheard about Jesus teaching in the local synagogue, and the healing of Peter's mother in law, and the healing of the Leper, and the 4 men who lowered their paralytic friend on a mat through the roof of a house.

Matthew was not only restored to relationship with people; but his greatest need, his sins were forgiven.

The disciples were probably uncomfortable with Matthew because of who he was, his profession and his past life.

Notice what the text says:

Luke 5:27-28

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ So, leaving everything behind, he got up and began to follow him.

Matthew knows that as soon as he gets up and leaves the tax table behind, he's done. He's cut off from Rome and that lifestyle. Because as soon as he quit that job; Rome would have him replaced overnight.

Matthew was a trophy of God's grace. He's a picture of God's mercy and grace, His love for us when we're stuck in a hopeless and helpless situation.

We're all sinners. We're all desperately in need of a Savior.

When you realize that Jesus is all you have, you'll realize that Jesus is all you need.

So how does Matthew respond? He throws a huge party to invite all his friends to introduce them to Jesus as well.

Luke 5:29-32

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Sometimes we have to learn the hard way that we need to be as welcoming or open as Jesus. Here the "religious" are shocked that Jesus was eating with other tax collectors and sinners.

Notice the contrast between Matthew and the Religious Leaders in v. 32.

Who is well? Who is sick? And who knows it?

Matthew knows he's sick, and is aware of his need. The Pharisees are sick and have no idea.

Matthew, the outcast, the overlooked, writes the genealogy of Jesus in his Gospel; and includes several women who were outcasts and overlooked. 4 women who were outcasts or considered sinners.

1. Tamar - a gentile who posed as a prostitute who slept with Judah.
2. Rahab - a prostitute who saves the Jewish spies who came to Jericho

3. Ruth - a moabite woman far from the people of God
4. Bathsheba - a woman who was abused and used sexually by King David.

Matthew is pointing out that no one is too far from the grace of God. No one is beyond the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

The same offer that Jesus extends to Matthew also rings out to us today, when Jesus say, "Come, follow me."

Just like Matthew, God will meet you where you are, but He doesn't leave you where you were.