

Twelve Ordinary Men How The Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness and What He Wants to Do With You

Chapter 8- Matthew and Thomas : The Publican and the Pessimist
Matthew 9:9-10, John 11:6, Luke 5: 29-32, Luke 19: 2-10, Luke 7:29
Matthew 21: 31-32, Luke 18: 10-14, Luke 15:1, John 21: 19-31

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I. Introduction

There are two key questions found on pages 155-156 of our book that provide keen insight into the heart of Matthew- He was more than a Tax Collector.

On pages 149-150 there is a glimpse into the heart of Jesus as He chose His disciples . What is the contrast between the men He chose and the men he rejected?

These questions provide both an introduction and foundation for this lesson regarding Matthew and Thomas.

II. Outline of Chapter 8

A. Matthew: The Publican- Review pages 151-157

1. How does the writer describe the call of Matthew by Jesus Christ ?
2. Why did Matthew invite Tax Collectors and others considered less than to his banquet for Jesus ?
3. Why was Matthew forbidden to enter any synagogue ?
4. Two other Tax Collectors are mentioned in the chapter, how are they described ?
5. The lesson describes two types of Tax Collectors, what type was Matthew ?
6. What caused Matthew to drop everything at once and walk away from his tax office not knowing what the future held ?
7. How well did Matthew know the Old Testament ?
8. The author provides a great summary of what is known about Matthew (page 156) what is your reaction to that information ?

B. Thomas : The Pessimist

1. What is “ heroic pessimism” ?
2. Was Thomas’ courage a source of strength to the other disciples ?
3. How do you balance the pessimism of Thomas with his deep devotion to Jesus ?
4. How is the love of Thomas for Jesus described in John chapter 14 ?
5. Why was Thomas called “ Doubting Thomas”? Clue: John 20: 25.
6. Thomas made what was probably the greatest statement ever to come from the lips of the apostles: “ My Lord and My God” -John 20:28. What does that statement say about Thomas and the deity of Jesus Christ ?

III. Questions and Review

1. Describe in your own words the significance of the statement regarding “ Transformation” on page 165 ?
2. Apparently Jesus had a special place in His heart for tax collectors. How do the following references confirm or contradict that impression: Matthew 9: 9-13, Matthew 21: 31-32, Luke 7:29, Luke 15:1, Luke 18: 10-14, Luke 19: 2-10 ?
3. Whom did Matthew invite to be part of his banquet for Jesus ? Why is his actions a transferable principle regarding evangelism ?
4. Why is Matthew’s immediate response to follow Jesus so remarkable ?

IV. A Key Point to Ponder

When Jesus invites Thomas to see and touch His wounds, we realize that Jesus wasn’t physically present when the “doubting” disciple voiced his reservations. Nonetheless, Jesus was aware of what was said. In addition to His omniscience, Jesus is the epitome of unconditional non-judgmental love. He doesn’t put Thomas down for his questions. Instead , He holds out His scarred hands.

What does this statement say about Jesus and what should it mean to us as a church and individual believers ?