

Matthew 1:1, 9:9 How Does Jesus See Us?

V.1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Tonight we are beginning our Journey through the NT! – Super excited!

A)The NT starts with the first four books known as Gospels. – **Gospel according to Matthew!**

B)Greek word for gospel is **evangelion** – from which we get our word EVANGELISM

C)Gospel is an English word, it's an Anglo-Saxon word, it originally is called "God's Spell" **and God's Spell means good news**

1) principally, it's the good news about Jesus Christ.

D)**There are Four Gospels.** These bother some people. I don't know why.

E)It delights me, because the life of Christ is so deep, so rich, so important

1)It Deserves at least 4 looks at it!

Now the first three Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, are called Synoptic Gospels,

A)Because they follow a general outline or synopsis, the same material, the same approach.

B)John's gospel is different – He writes more in themes than in narrative.

1)John's emphasis is to present Jesus in His Deity – God made flesh!

C)But Each of the synoptic gospels also has a particular emphasis

Matthew is emphasizing Jesus as the sovereign one

A)The King, the Lord, the one predicted by the Old Testament.

D)**Mark portrays Jesus as the Servant**, the one doing, going out immediately and accomplishing the will of God.

E)**Luke portrays Jesus as the Son of Man**, relating to mankind, one of us, compassionate, showing emotions, gives the title and often repeated in

Luke, the Son of Man.

F)The Fourth Gospel John - speaks about the Son of God.

So when you look at the Four Gospels, it's as if the Holy Spirit is the producer of the film of the life of Jesus, and he has four different camera angles,

A)The authors each have a different focus,

B)They each tell a different side of the story of Jesus Christ.

C)All Four Gospels have an audience in mind.

1)Matthew was written by a Jew for the Jews.

D)That's why 16 times in this book, he will say, **"This was done so that it might be fulfilled what was written by Isaiah or Jeremiah or whatever prophet."**

E)He is showing the Jewish people, "This man Jesus, fulfilled prophecy." It was written to the Jew.

The Gospel of Mark was written to the Romans!

A)Purpose is to show that Jesus was the perfect servant, completely, immediately doing the will of his master, **something a Roman would respect.**

B)And that's why you read so often in the Gospel of Mark, the word "immediately", and then Jesus 1)it's just like a script of somebody busy working, fulfilling his master's will.

C)Luke was written for the Greeks, the Greeks emphasize the perfect man,

1)Jesus is seen as the perfect man, the son of man.

D)John was written really for the whole world, **for God so loved the world**, John 3:16.

1)And the idea is that we might believe in him.

These things were written that we might believe that Jesus is the Son of God. John 21

Now, besides having those emphases, they have another kind of emphasis.

A)Matthew emphasizes what Jesus said.

B)We will see in the Gospel of Matthew, great discourses like the Sermon on the Mount

1)that are covered in-depth manner. Like no where else in the gospels

C) What **Jesus spoke is important to Matthew.**

What Jesus did was important to Mark.

A) So it's a shorter Gospel and it's rapidly moving in its phase.

B) Luke is emphasizing how Jesus felt.

1) He is the Son of Man, He related to us, He shows compassion, He has a love for people, He reaches out as seen by what he says, what he does, the miracles he performs.

C) And John, is not really about what Jesus said or about what Jesus did or about how Jesus felt, **it's really about who Jesus is, His DEITY**

D) Now, the title says the Gospel according to Matthew – **who is Matthew?**

Introduced to him in Matthew Ch. 9 please turn

Matthew 9:9-13

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."

Mark 2:14-17

¹³ Then He went out again by the sea; and all the multitude came to Him, and He taught them. ¹⁴ As He passed by, He saw Levi the *son* of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

¹⁵ Now it happened, as He was dining in *Levi's* house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. ¹⁶ And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His

disciples, "How *is it* that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹⁷ When Jesus heard *it*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Luke 5:27-31

²⁷ 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." ²⁸ So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.

²⁹ Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. ³⁰ And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

³¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Now In Mark's gospel he says that Jesus saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. Luke says that Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi.

A) Matthew's own record says something vastly different – Jesus saw **a man**, named Matthew.

B) Jesus saw a Man!

Now We never hear Matthew speaking in any of the Gospels –

A) **Contrast to Peter who says a lot.** We also hear Thomas, John and a few others but not Matthew.

B) He seems to be the quiet one – but he would leave a lasting imprint

1) **Matthew = The Gift of God** – He would be a gift – gives us this gospel account of Jesus

C) **Not what others saw: When others looked at Levi they saw a traitor – a sellout – a thief.**

1) How they viewed the tax collectors. They were put in the category of the sinners and prostitutes – the lowest of the lows.

We see people by reputation.

A) Reputation is what others say about you and you want to have a good reputation.

B) But reputations are not always accurate.
1) The reputation of Jesus was that he was illegitimate – He was a glutton – Drunkard

C) The reputation of Matthew was a bad one! – Bad dude

1) Not Who Jesus SAW!

D) Jesus in the beginning saw what he was going to be a gift of God.

1) See's you and I for what we are going to become as well.

Jesus sees past the reputation and sees the man/ the woman – He sees the heart –

A) Sometimes that can be a great consolation to us.

Aa) Prayer we say to the Lord – Lord you know my heart, you know what is really going on.

B) Jesus also sees what we will become by His grace.

1) He who began a good work will be faithful to complete it

C) Jesus passed by and saw A MAN named Matthew – sitting at the tax office- **TAX COLLECTOR - IRS**

SITTING AT THE TAX OFFICE.

A) That is important – he is part of three great tax offices in Israel in that day.

Aa) there was one in Jericho – one in Capernaum and another in Caesarea by the sea.

B) Zacchaeus we are told was the chief tax collector at Jericho – other guys worked for him

C) We don't know who the chief tax collector was in Capernaum but Levi worked for him

1) He would have had to purchase that position. He paid a % of the tax to Rome –

ROMAN TAXES

A) Rome had a

- 10% ground tax OR land TAX
- 20% tax on fruit or wine

B) Poll tax based on the # of people in your house

- **1% income tax – { Love it**

C) Then there were Other taxes that was up to the tax collectors discretion – this is where he can really make his money.

1) % to Rome and keep the rest- so they would gouge the people!

D) For that reason the people of Israel had great resentment for the Tax collectors.

Discretionary TAXES INCLUDED

- Import tax
- Export tax
- Bridge tax – cross a bridge
- Harbor tax
- Axle tax - # of Axles on your cart
- Wheel tax – based on the number of wheels
- Animal tax – # animals pulling the cart
- Luxury tax
- Boat tax
- Fish tax

B) Fish tax – one commentator – Matthew who taught Peter to cuss – don't believe that –

1) Maybe all these taxes played a part

C) Matthew was a part of that establishment – Rich man

Now Mark and Luke tell us that Matthew's given name was Levi

A) Which means he was probably not from the tribe of Judah or Benjamin – **but from the tribe of Levi – Priestly tribe.**

B) Most scholars believe that he was **a reengage priest.** – Several reasons

#1 There are more OT quotes in Matthew than in Mark/Luke and John Combined – over 99 OT references

#2 16 places where he specifically says that **“this happened that it might be fulfilled.”** That phrase was not used in Mark/Luke or John

#3 His knowledge of the OT – obviously fluent in Hebrew.

C) Being a tax collector he was required to be fluid in Aramaic, Greek and Latin

1) Matthew is a sharp guy – fluid in 4 languages – Intelligent

Growing up in a priestly family – He no doubt became disillusioned with the corrupt religious system and the Hypocrisy in Israel

A)Hypocrite means play actor – one who wore a mask

B)Matthew in his gospel seems to see behind the mask of religious Israel –

1)he uses the terms Hypocrite and Hypocrisy more than all of the Bible combined

C)Growing up in a priestly home and seeing the Hypocrisy and the politics of the religious system he decides he didn't want to be a priest

D)He decides he is going to get all that he can get for himself because the whole religious thing is phony – He wasn't buying into it

SO with no spiritual or emotional ties to the nation –

A)Levi turns from his religious roots to the place where he can make the most money – Rome

B)But there would be a cost – His countrymen would despise him – they would look at him as a reprobate - a sellout and a traitor – the scum of the earth

C)This is the man through which the Lord would choose to write this gospel!

D)His background gives us the framework to write this gospel where he will present Jesus as the King –

1)the Lion of the tribe of Judah and contrast him with the religious system in Israel

E)He gives us the Royalty of Jesus in contrast to the Hypocrisy of his own time

Lesson:

- When saved – God doesn't take our personality background and upbringing and throw it all away
- Rather he seeks to use it for his own glory and Kingdom

Now There are a number of things that we find in his gospel that we find no where else

A)There are 10 parables here –no where else

B)Nine discourses that he alone records

1)Six incidents that he alone records : **The Wisemen**

C)Herod killing the babies –

1)the **testimony of the Roman guards** at the tomb – fell like dead men

D)He alone gives us that insight because He had a connection to that world because of his time as a tax collector

He alone gives us the words recorded in Matthew 20:28 **Behold I am with you always even to the end of the age**

A)He is the one who tells us that from the Cross Matthew 27:46 **“Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”** that is, **“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”**

B)He alone gives us the great INVITATION OF Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

C)No doubt – Matthew's heart could resonate with that feeling of being weary and heavy laden.

I wonder when he penned those words if he thought of that Day – Jesus called him from the tax booth

A)When Jesus comes face to face with Levi who's heart had become hardened by the religious hypocrisy he saw

B)Jesus only had to say one thing to him – Follow me

C)Some have suggested that the reason Levi was so attracted to Jesus was because the religious leaders despised and hated Jesus

D)Levi was like – I am for anyone that they are against – He must be doing something right to make them so mad

SO Matthew tells us in his gospel when Jesus looked at me He saw a man

A)No one had looked at him like that in years

B)No judgment – no disdain – no attitude or look of disgust

C)Jesus saw a man – Weary and Heavy laden – Jesus had Compassion –
1)His eyes were gentle –

D)Jesus looked right into Matthew’s soul and saw the emptiness – said – FOLLOW ME

Matthew stood up and left everything!

A)Huge – he wouldn’t be able to go back – couldn’t the next day – I changed my mind – he was leaving his post – he was done

B)He stepped away from it all

One of the things that God would use him to do was to put the Love of Jesus in contrast to the religious world

A)**We need to learn to do that as well**

B)After we have been saved for a while we can develop a religious attitude toward the sinner. –
1)An attitude that doesn’t exist in the heart of Christ

C)We read here in our **text 9:10 LUKE 5:29** that **Matthew after getting saved – throws a party –**
1) invites all his tax collector buddies – and the riff raff that went along with them

D)This is the worst of that society congregating in one place all together and Jesus is right in the middle of it all.

E)How many of us would not go there? – Yet Jesus does

This is not Matthew’s goodbye party – this is his HELLO JESUS PARTY

A)He wants his friends to meet Jesus

B)The religious leaders were furious that Jesus was there – Jesus says – it is the sick who need a doctor

C)Who are you most like? Pharisees or Jesus
1)Who do you want to be like?

D)What needs to Change? -
1)To See People the way Jesus does.

NOT BAD – BUT SICK – DISEASE SIN!

A)Lord help us to see with his eyes his heart!

B)Adulterer – Homosexual – Drug Addict

C)Love them with an unconditional love that reaches out to them.

1)Unconditional love is NOT – UNCONDITIONAL APPROVAL.

D)LOVE THEM – but not approve

Jesus loved these people and that is why he was willing to hang with them!

A)Doesn’t mean that **He was putting his stamp of approval on their lifestyle.**

B)He realized they were sick and He might be able to fix them – **just like he fixed Matthew.**

C)Note this: THERE IS No recorded sermon – no Bible study – no confrontation.

1)He is just there!

D)Was there Spiritual conversation that took place?

1)I would think so – but this was not a crusade it was a party.

Going to the party opened the door for some of these same people to come out later and hear him teach.

A)Luke 15:1 **“Then all the tax collectors and sinners drew near to hear him.”**

B)So many people today who are outside the church stay there – opposed to the message

1)Because Christian’s don’t get the heart of Jesus and how He sees sinners – Sick – Lost – Sheep

C)**Too many Christians only see Good Vs Bad Sacred Vs Secular – Light vs Dark**

1)People all around us are going to hell – breaks God’s heart –

D)We won’t cross the cubicle – the street or the tracks – to engage with someone who is lost!

E)We forget that is exactly what we were!

Jesus came to help people who were not connected to God – get connected to God!

A) You know what excites Heaven: Gets heaven in celebration mode. – NOT US IN CHURCH

B) Yes God inhabits the praises of His people –

1) But it is more of a given to God that we would want to be here. Learn about Him –

C) The thing that gets Heaven celebrating is when a person who was not connected to God gets connected

Luke 15:7

“I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”

D) That is what lights up the heart of our Father in Heaven – the host of Heaven.

1) The Disconnected get connected to Jesus!

E) That is what we have to be about as believers

1) This is the HUDDLE – out there is the game!

F) Help you and Cheer you on! Jesus movement

1) Lord help us – conform us.....