

Matthew 9:1-34

The Calling of Matthew

Who is Matthew?

Syrian (Ireneus) Galilean.

Tax Collector

Name is originally Levi

Son of Alphaeus

Attributed mission to Judea among the Jews, Ethiopia, Persia, Syria

Contested martyrdom

Eusebius tells of him writing his Gospel in Hebrew as well

This passage actually supports one of the aspects of authorship.

Luke & Mark name Matthew as the host but Matthew does not.

He only states that it was at his house.

This is a common trait of writers to downplay their role as it is unseemly to show pride.

The Context of the Passage

2 Demon Possessed men

forgiveness of paralysed man

Calling of Matthew

Challenge re. fasting - wineskins

Dead girl & sick woman

2 blind men

What are the common patterns in this passage?

Jesus engaging with the broken, the despised, the hurting, the needy.

There is an interplay between personal initiative and response to invitation.

The relationship between people and Jesus is never the same or one sided.

It is always an interaction.

Jesus is Jesus and the people are people.

There is a necessary willingness on both sides to engage.

Pharisees keep judging people.

At every turn they are critical of Jesus himself.

So why does Matthew focus on these stories?

Being a hated tax collector, known to be collaborators and cheats.

How would a man like Matthew feel about himself?

What does he think about himself before meeting Jesus?

How does Jesus change the way he feels?

Our Context

Last week we reflected on our disappointment with God.

I know some of our groups moved towards disappointment with ourselves.

So...

How do you feel about yourself?

What did you think about yourself before meeting Jesus?

What do you think Jesus thinks about you?

How does this affect the way you think about others,
especially those who are despised, broken, hurting, wicked?