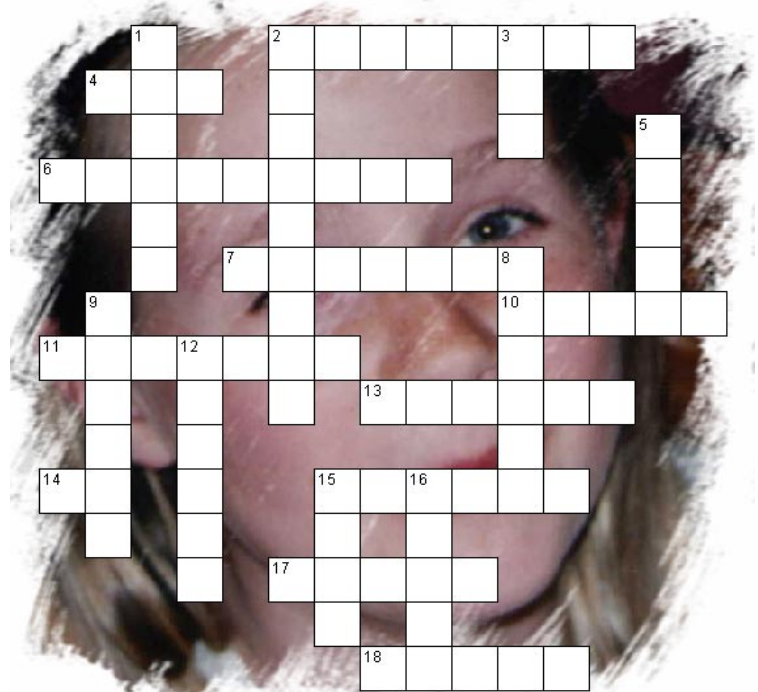


Crossword Puzzle

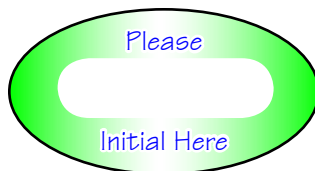


Across

Down

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2. Tax collectors were ____ by the Jews. | 1. How we thank Him that He has ____ us. |
| 4. Matthew was a ____ collector. | 2. When the Lord called His ____... |
| 6. Matthew was a tax ____. | 3. Matthew was a slave of money and ____. |
| 7. Matthew was even chosen to be an ____. | 5. ...others came to ____ the Lord for eading with tax collectors and sinners. |
| 10. Matthew was a slave of ____ and sin. | 8. The Roman ____. |
| 11. The tax collector. | 9. The Lord called those that the ____ had chosen for His kingdom. |
| 13. The Lord was ____ with tax collectors and sinners in Matthew's house. | 12. The Lord had ____ apostles. |
| 14. The Lord told Matthew "follow ____." | 15. The Lord does not call people based on how ____ they are. |
| 15. Matthew wrote the ____ of Matthew. | 16. Matthew was a ____ of money and sin. |
| 17. Matthew collected tax for the ____ Empire. | |
| 18. He prepared a great ____ for the Lord Jesus. | |

Parent's Initials:



God's Calling in the New Testament

- Lesson Six -

In the Gospels – The Apostle Matthew

I. Overview.

The previous lessons have shown us the calling of the first apostles – Peter and John. Peter and John were seekers of God. In this lesson we will consider the calling of another apostle, Matthew. As we will see, Matthew was not a seeker, but rather he was a person who was a sinner and a lover of money.



Matthew was a Jew, but he worked for the Romans as a tax collector.

Matthew, or Levi as he is sometimes called, was a tax collector. He was a person who collected taxes from his own people and paid them to the Roman government. Since the Jews did not like the Roman occupation, they also did not like the tax collectors. Additionally, most of the tax collectors were known to be corrupt and kept part of the money for themselves. This is the kind of person that Matthew was. But that did not stop the Lord from calling him. No matter what kind of person we are, the Lord can still call us and we can be changed in our heart.

II. Memory Verse.

“And... Jesus... saw a man sitting in the tax office, called Matthew, and He said to him, follow me. And he rose up and followed Him.”

(Matt. 9:9)

III. Lesson.

When the Lord Jesus called His disciples, it was not based on how good they were. Some indeed were good, but others were not so good. The Lord called those whom His Father had chosen for His kingdom.



Matthew invited others to join him to feast with the Lord Jesus.

The Calling of Matthew

One of those called by the Lord Jesus was a tax collector named Matthew. He was also called Levi. Tax collectors were despised by the Jews for two reasons. Firstly, they were considered as traitors to their countrymen because they collected the tax money for the Roman Empire. Secondly, they often overcharged the Jewish people and kept the extra money for themselves.

The Lord purposely went to the place where Matthew worked to find him. Although Matthew was a tax collector, he was chosen by the Father to be in His heavenly kingdom. The Lord looked at Matthew as he sat at the tax office and called him saying “follow Me.” In an instant a great miracle happened. Matthew, a slave of money and sin, was set free. As he looked back into the eyes of the Lord Jesus, he was released from the love of money and everything else.

Feasting with Joy in the Lord

Matthew was filled with great joy and thanks. He prepared a great feast for the Lord Jesus and invited many of his friends to join them. As they ate together in Matthew’s house, others came to blame the Lord for eating with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus answered that He was not sent to call the righteous, but sinners.

Faithfully Following the Lord

Matthew loved the Lord Jesus and was very thankful that the Lord had come to call him to salvation. Matthew faithfully followed the Lord Jesus and was even chosen by the Lord to become one of His twelve apostles. Later, Matthew wrote concerning his experience of the Lord. His writing became part of the New Testament, the first book, the Gospel of Matthew.

It is important for us to understand that the Lord’s calling is not based on how good we are. He calls those whom the Father has chosen. How we thank Him that He has called us.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. Was Matthew a “good” person?

2. Why did the people of Israel not like the tax collectors?

3. Why did the Lord Jesus call Matthew?

4. What did Matthew write?

