



Luke 5:27-32

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." NKJV

In order to reach Matthew with the gospel...

- Jesus gave Matthew an invitation to learn the truth through relationship

Jesus was a rabbi. A rabbi was a Jewish teacher that developed relationship with their disciples and trained their disciples in the scriptures. It was an honor for any young man to be invited to learn the scriptures from a rabbi. To the Jew it was like receiving an invitation to attend Harvard.

Jesus gave Matthew an invitation to learn the truth through relationship.

- Jesus loved the people Matthew loved

He chose Matthew to be His disciple and then He attends a dinner at Matthew's house with Matthew and his friends.

When Jesus discipled people, He loved the people they loved.

He chose the Samaritan woman to be His disciple and then He spends two days with her people in her city.

He chose Zacchaeus to be His disciple and then He meets at his house with his friends. He chose Andrew to be His disciple then he welcomes Peter, Andrew's Brother. He chose Peter to be His disciple and then Jesus goes to Peter's home and he heals his mother-in-law.

There was nothing that Jesus did that gained His disciple's trust faster than loving the people that His disciples loved.

Jesus loved the people that Matthew loved.

- [Jesus extended mercy to Matthew when he failed](#)

Being a tax collector, Matthew was a notorious sinner. But Jesus showed Him mercy at the very beginning of their relationship by forgiving Matthew and by choosing Him to be His disciple.

Matthew gave up his sinful profession. But this would not be the only time that Matthew needed mercy. It was just the beginning. All the disciples of Jesus were immature. One even continued to be a thief and a liar and Jesus showed mercy to him. Each time his disciples failed, Jesus forgave them and extended mercy to them. He did not condone what they did. He told them the truth. But Jesus saw himself as a physician rather than a judge. Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save it from condemnation.

He did not harbor a grudge against them or reject them as His disciples because they failed. He did not give up on them. He did not allow their failures to determine His faith in them and what they could become. Through the mercy that Jesus showed them, they came to understand the mercy of God.

To reach Matthew with the gospel, Jesus extended mercy to him when he failed.

To reach Matthew with the gospel...

1. [Jesus gave Matthew an invitation to learn the truth through relationship with Him.](#)
2. [Jesus loved the people that Matthew loved.](#)
3. [Jesus extended mercy to Matthew when Matthew failed](#)

Jesus has not changed. He reaches the Matthews in this world today with the gospel the same way He did when He was in the flesh.

What has changed church is that we are His flesh on earth. He sent His Spirit to live in us so that we can be His flesh on earth. Jesus has not changed and His strategy to reach the Matthews in this world has not changed.

But for that to happen through you in 2020, you must be willing to cooperate with the Spirit of Jesus in you. You must be willing to do what Jesus did.

1. Give your Matthews an invitation to learn the truth through relationship with you.
2. Love the people that your Matthew's love
3. Extend mercy to your Matthews when your Matthews fail

How can you do this?

1. You must give your Matthew an invitation to learn the truth through relationship with you.

Ask your Matthew to join you for bible study once a week!

What are you going to use for bible study?

Our small group ministry is the most important ministry that we have in our church. Jesus was a member of a small group and invited Matthew to join His. The early church exploded in Jerusalem at Pentecost and the apostles immediately divided the people into small groups. As the church spread out from Jerusalem, the leaders of the church divided the members into small groups with leaders that met in homes.

Why?

It is only in small groups that "everyone" has an opportunity to be the church. The church of Jesus cannot fulfill Jesus command to love another without small groups.

But it is critical to our mission that you understand that the reason we study the bible the way we study it in small groups is to equip every member in the group to personally have a bible study with those who are lost?

Our small groups are not the final destination for our members. Our small groups are a launching pad for our members to be equipped do to do bible study with those who are lost!

Our small groups are the means we use to equip our members to do bible study with others that don't know Jesus.

(Examples: Arnulfo and Dalia Lopez; Thomas Hill and the new guy in his group; Josh Wells and the bible study at Hudiburg)

Josh- "Thanks for the prayers. It's been a rough month at work opportunity wise. Would love the Lord to bless me with some chances to make money this month. Would appreciate prayers for that. Led our first Bible study of the semester at Hudiburg. I'm just walking then through the discipleship group guide called In Your Corner from Western Hills. It was new for most people to go through something like that, but we had some really good openness in the first meeting. Already have 20+ people there, including David and Davis Hudiburg. Praying that we can multiply pretty quickly into multiple small groups at work. Need God

to bless that vision and raise up leaders and others willing to buy into small group discipleship, so praise and prayer request all in one.”

If you are not comfortable leading yet, you can just invite lost people to your small group. But understand how this will severely limit the breath and the depth of your outreach to the lost.

- Your small group meets at the same time every week. Jesus did not host a once a week meeting time to make disciples. This would have severely limited the breath of His outreach. He adjusted His life to be with those He disciplined. If you are going to be effective in reaching others you have got to be willing to adjust your life to meet with your Matthew. Jesus did! This increases the breath of your outreach.
- Your small group cannot be as relational for the lost as meeting with you one to one once a week. One to one meetings with your Matthew increases the depth of your relationship. It gives you more time to answer their questions.

You are never going to be very effective reaching the lost until you are willing to invite them to learn the truth through a bible study with you! All they can say is no. If they say no, go invite someone else.

If you can't think of anyone you that you already have relationship with that is lost, just do what Jesus did and invite a total stranger to join you.

Go door to door in your neighborhood until you find a neighbor that is willing to join you in a bible study once a week.

Ask a waiter or waitress to join you for bible study once a week.

Ask your hairdresser, the person you see at star bucks all the time, or a co-worker.

What if they are already Christians and say yes? The two of you can work together through your bible study to reach a Matthew with the gospel.

If your Matthew says yes and if you are faithful to meet each week for bible study, as you share relationship and the truth each week, the Holy Spirit will do His part and draw your Matthew to Jesus.

To reach others with the gospel, you must give your Matthew an invitation to learn the truth through a bible study with you.

2. You must love the people your Matthew loves

As you develop relationship with your Matthew, love the people they love. This is being relational. Find out what your Matthew's loved ones are going through and do what you can do to help meet their loved one's needs.

- Pray with your Matthew about their loved ones
- Visit your Matthew's loved ones and pray with them
- Meet temporal needs when you can

You must love the people your Matthew loves.

3. You must extend mercy to your Matthew when they fail

Jesus met with Matthew for 3- and one-half years before Matthew understood the gospel and was born again of the Spirit of God. This was true for all the disciples of Jesus. Countless times Jesus showed them mercy when they failed. He told them the truth, but He never abandoned them. They had the freedom to abandon Him and they did! But He never abandoned them.

You must extend mercy to your Matthew when they fail.

Jesus said....

Matthew 16:18

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
NKJV

Jesus expected His church to be this incredible force that stormed the gates of hell to rescue those who were lost. He expected this because He promised that He would be in each member of His church and He would accomplish His mission through them. Jesus said...

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
NKJV

Instead of winning, we are declining. If things continue as they are now in the church, most Christians alive in this generation will never win anyone to Jesus.

Jesus has not changed His strategy for reaching the Matthews of this world.

1. Jesus gave Matthew an invitation to learn the truth through relationship with Him.
2. Jesus loved the people that Matthew loved.
3. Jesus extended mercy to Matthew when Matthew failed

Will you follow Jesus? Will you do with others in 2020 what Jesus did with Matthew?

If you have not received Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, will you receive Him today?

Have you ever considered what Jesus did for Matthew, He wants to do for you?
He invites you to learn the truth through relationship with Him.

He loves the people you love and wants them all to be saved.

He has extended mercy to you for your failures.

In order to have a relationship with you, love the people you love, and extend mercy to you,
Jesus died for your sins.

He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven where He rules over heaven and earth.
He sent His Spirit so that He could be with us. He will return to judge the world.

Are you prepared for His return and His judgment? Have you believed upon Jesus for the
forgiveness of your sins and asked Him to be your savior and Lord?

Receive Him today and receive His calling to reach people like Matthew, one person at a
time.

In just a moment, I am going to ask all our members to put on our Jesus board the names of
those people that you are praying will be saved. If there is one or more of these people that
you are willing to ask to have bible study with you once a week, I want you to put a star by
their name.

Jesus said His church would do greater works than He did.

[John 14:12-14](#)

[12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also;
and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.](#)

[13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the
Son.](#)

[14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.](#)

[NKJV](#)

It makes sense.

Jesus in His flesh was just one person. By going to the Father and sending His Spirit to live
in them, He could multiply the works He could do 12 times.

Jesus in our flesh can work through every member of His body and reach Matthew's all
over our city and all over the world.

Will you join Jesus and us in reaching the lost in 2020?