

MATTHEW

LOSE YOUR LIFE TO FIND IT

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CHILDREN'S TIME:

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Mary had a Little Lamb - follow Jesus - talk about
Follow the Leader - play the game a bit
Obstacle Course - follow Jesus no matter what
Patterned after Jesus (punch holes in paper like Master)

Day after day I sat in my booth by the road

Business was good

- I could charge every one using the road however much I
thought I could get

like filling out your 1040 for you & collecting!

Then taking it home & refiguring to send Rome

Some \$ went to Rome, rest I could keep'

Easy way to get rich fast

Of course it wasn't a popular life, esp not with Jews
rejected me, saw as a traitor

I was rich, secure

Often I thought of retirement and what I'd do

As I sat there THAT DAY I was thinking about my money

-meant less and less to me as time went on

-thought much \$ would bring happiness and peace
more I got, less happy and peaceful I was!

Woman walking by called out "ROBBER, THIEF" to me

Tax collectors seen as traitors, worked for Rome
got used to those things, just ignored them

one of richest men in Capernaum
one of most hated men in Capernaum

Rabbis @ tax collectors

-couldn't enter synagogue

-listed with pigs -not allowed to ever repent

Then I saw HIM coming down the road

regularly paid His taxes to me

heard of His:leaving carpenter shop in Naz

baptism by John

followers who gave up all for Him

teachings about forgiveness

miracles proving He was God

I avoided eye contact with Him - felt dirty and guilty

He was always nice to me

-in fact talked to me about a better life than I had

a few years earlier I would have laughed

he didn't have any money, no home - nothing!

how could being a penniless travel be better?

Now I felt strangely drawn to Him

-even wondered what it would be like to give it

all up and follow Him !

-but never thought long - He'd not have ME!

Still I envied those who could be with Him

Help His cause best by staying away!

This time He stopped at my table and I was surprised

Knew He'd moved from Nazareth to Capernaum

something about being rejected there

-I knew what that was like!

but why come to my booth? He didn't owe any taxes

"FOLLOW ME" He invited

I was stunned - He not only spoke to me

but He wanted me to travel with Him!

He wanted me to identify myself with Him
He was willing to identify Himself with me!
All of a sudden it seemed like a great idea

Why not? I thought - life is empty this way
there's something about Him

- excellent reader of men
- top notch education

I realized I had really made the decision inside long ago
didn't think it would ever be possible, though!

Closed my books, shut up the booth and left
followed Him from then on

sold booth, gave \$ to Him and poor people
honest gain I used to support our travels
dishonest gain I returned as best I could

People SHOCKED -that He's want me!

-That I'd want Him!

But it was the best move I've ever made!

MATTHEW HUMBLE

- didn't feel worthy of being called by Jesus
- never wrote much about self in his gospel
- not quoted saying things or taking lead

WELL AWARE OF OWN SIN AND GUILT

- not good Jew, didn't obey law
- traitor to my people
- extortioner - get & hold post
- mafia connections to make money
- thief, dishonest gain

Jesus: *"I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance"*

Aren't you glad Jesus came to call SINNERS?

TAX COLLECTORS FOLLOWED JESUS

ZACCHAEUS others (Mt 11:19; Lk 17:34; 13:1)

LEFT tax collecting for good forever

not something could go back to like fishing

Many today don't want God running their lives

Wilbur Reese writes with biting sarcasm:

I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please

Not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine.

I don't want enough of him to make me love a black man or pick beets with a migrant.

I want ecstasy, not transformation.

I want the warmth of the womb not a new birth.

I want about a pound of the eternal in a paper sack.

I'd like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.

How much of God do you want?

Jesus wants disciples and not admirers. An admirer is the cheap edition of a disciple.

TURN FROM ALL TO FOLLOW JESUS

fishing for men takes 100% COMMITMENT

AFTER SALVATION

First thing I did was invite my friends to meet Jesus

knew their lives empty, powerless too

wanted them to have what I found

WANT to have others find Jesus!

BANQUET to introduce friends to Jesus
-fishing for those closest to him
who were His friends?

Rejects: Pimps, Pushers, Prostitutes

Jesus: *“a friend of tax collectors and sinners”* Mt 11:19

NOT approving of their sin BUT reaching their person

AS ONE OF THE 12:

Accountant, whiz with Money

natural choice for group treasurer (not Judas)

left all that at salvation - not want to be back in it, tempted

Best-educated disciple

fine writer - GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

no mention of himself (humble)

to Jews about Jesus = Messiah - scholarly work

After RESURRECTION

preached in Judea 12 - 15 years

To ETHIOPIA & PERSIA

education allowed him to speak to kings

built on foundation started by magi who saw Jesus

KILLED IN EGYPT - head split open with an ax

FOLLOW JESUS ONLY - DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew gave up all else immediately

Obedience to Jesus total, 100%

didn't try to use old system to impress, earn salvation

Turn from 'religion' (works of flesh to impress God)

Motive of love and commitment for all we do

Materialism is empty

DISCIPLESHIP A BLESSING, NOT BURDEN

Matt 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

INVITATION:

Matt 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,

Come - Command

to Me - Jesus, not church, others, morality, etc.

Weary & burdened - by Pharasial system of the time

Weary - effect, continuous present

fruitless efforts to deal with sin/guilt on own

Burdened - cause, overloaded ox

PROMISE:

and I will give you rest.

I - only Jesus can take our burdens, nothing else

rest - refresh, rest up, cease from labor

takes our burden so we don't have to carry it

INJUNCTION:

Matt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

Take my yoke upon you = as 'take up your cross'

command, aorist

my yoke - taking His yoke removes our burden

doesn't say He will take our burden

only says He will give us His yoke

learn from me - continuous present, disciple process

'learn' same root as 'disciple'
=to acquire a custom/ habit through practice

INCENTIVES:

for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Gentle ... humble ... rest - what His yoke is like
'don't fear My yoke!'