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# First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

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## Matthew – No Turning Back

Message #7 in the sermon series

**Ordinary People; Extraordinary God**

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<sup>9</sup> As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. <sup>11</sup> But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." <sup>13</sup> Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." (Matthew 9:9-13, NLT)

*More than any other disciple, Matthew had a clear idea of how much it would cost to follow Jesus, yet he did not hesitate a moment. When he left his tax-collecting booth, he guaranteed himself unemployment. For several of the other disciples, there was always fishing to return to, but for Matthew, there was no turning back. (Life Application Study Bible, Profile on Matthew, page 1665.)*

### What lessons do we learn from Matthew?

#### 1. No one is too \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved.

<sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. <sup>24</sup> Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. <sup>25</sup> For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. (Romans 3:23-25, NLT)

#### 2. We should not be \_\_\_\_\_ to tell people about Jesus and how He has \_\_\_\_\_ our life.

<sup>13</sup> Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good?

<sup>14</sup> But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. (1 Peter 3:13-16, NLT)

- **Build a \_\_\_\_\_ with a nonbeliever.**
- **Share a \_\_\_\_\_ witness with them.**
- **Bring the friend to \_\_\_\_\_ with you.**

**3. It \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew \_\_\_\_\_ to follow Jesus, and he showed his wholehearted commitment to Him through his lifelong service to Jesus.**

*According to tradition, Matthew ministered in Palestine for several years after the Lord's return to heaven, and then made missionary journeys to the Jews who were dispersed among the Gentiles. His work is associated with Persia, Ethiopia, and Syria, and some traditions associate him with Greece. The New Testament is silent on his life, but this we do know: Wherever the Scriptures travel in this world, the Gospel written by Matthew continues to minister to hearts. (Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, Volume 1, page 13)*

**4. Our extraordinary God \_\_\_\_\_ ordinary people just like you and me often in advance of our joining Him in His work of salvation**

<sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has

created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:8-10, NLT)

*Matthew's experience points out that each of us, from the beginning, is one of God's works in progress. Much of what God has for us He gives us long before we are able to consciously respond to Him. He trusts us with skills and abilities ahead of schedule. He has made us each capable of being His servant. When we trust Him with what He has given us, we begin a life of real adventure. Matthew couldn't have known that God would use the very skills he had sharpened as a tax collector to record the greatest story ever lived. And God has no less meaningful purpose for each one of us. Have you recognized Jesus saying to you, "Follow me"? What has been your response? (Life Application Study Bible, Profile on Matthew, page 1665.)*