

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-12

Topic: Rippled: "Matthew"

Matthew 9: "(9) As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. (10) While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house many tax collectors and 'sinners' came and ate with him and his disciples. (11) When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'"

"Ripples" = "a single stone dropped in a pool of water ripples the width of the pool."

• **Matthew's story**

1) ASSUME about Matthew

2) KNOW about Matthew

- **Verse 9**, "tax collector"

- Hated. Social outcast. Religious outcast.

- **Three tax collectors**

- Zacchaeus – chief tax collector

- Tax collector – **Luke 18**, "stood at a distance and beat his chest, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"

- Matthew

- **Two kinds of tax collectors**

- Gabbai – property, income and poll tax

- Mokhes –

- Great Mokhes (Zacchaeus)

- Little Mokhes (Matthew)

- "Levi" – **Luke 5:27**

- Tribe of Levites (priests)

- Life-time training (extensive, competitive)

- Matthew's Call to ministry (**Matthew 9:9**, "Follow me.")

- Rabbi – extensive knowledge of the Torah

- Students = "Talmidin" (Talmid = "student" or "disciple")

- Rabbis were prideful and took great pleasure in who was in their Talmidin

- Jesus calls Matthew

3) The application from Matthew's story for us

- We're more like Matthew than we care to admit

- **Romans 3:23**, "...all have sinned and fallen *short*..."

- Our stains? Disappointments in our life? Our walk with God?

- Anyone. Anyone can follow.