



A weekend with Jesus Saturday evening “Follow”

“Jesus only ever invited us to come to me, learn from me, abide in me, and follow me”

Dallas Willard.

A weekend with Jesus – Sat night

- *Come to me – all who are – weary and heavy burdened.*
- All who are thirsty.
- Abide in me
- Remain in, have a heart attitude that we belong to Jesus, allow ourselves to be held by him.
- How do we abide?
- Exercise, create habits. Do things every day so that they become normal reactions.
- Spiritual exercises put us in the position of being transformed by God – they do not transform us
- God is more interested in who you become more than who you are

Disciplines of abstinence.	Disciplines of engagement.
➤ Solitude	➤ Study
➤ Silence	➤ Worship
➤ Fasting	➤ Celebration
➤ Frugality	➤ Service
➤ Secrecy	➤ Prayer
➤ Sacrifice	➤ Fellowship
➤ etc	➤ Confession
	➤ Submission, etc

Matthew 9

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. 10 Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, and they sat along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" 12 But when Jesus heard this, he said, "healthy people don't need a doctor – sick people do. 13 The he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of the 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."

Matthews gospel

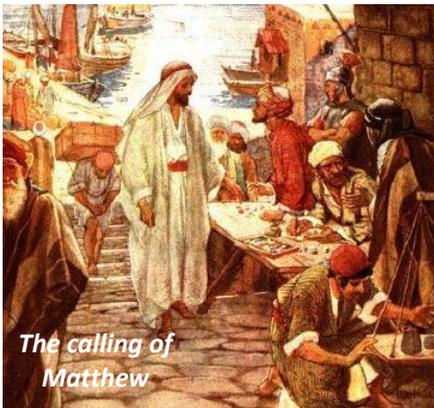
- For Jewish readers, probably Jewish believers
- Large amount of Jewish material and links to OT
- Particularly interested in showing Jesus is the messiah from prophecies, and teacher
- Themes of Kingdom of Heaven, strong call to discipleship, OT fulfilment, criticism of religious leaders
- Likely written for teachers – those who would take the scriptures for the people and teach them. Like a manual for church leaders

Flow – place in the gospel

- Sermon on the mount
- Healed a lepper – “if you are willing.”
- Roman Officer – healed his servant
- Healed Peters mother in law, lots of healings and deliverances, prophecy fulfilled,
- Calmed a storm – even the winds and waves obey him – who is this man?
- Went to Gadarenes - demons and pigs
- Calls a tax collector
- Sends out of the disciples – announce that the Kingdom of Heaven is near.

Key words

- **Follow:** to follow one who precedes, join as their attendant, accompany them. Message “come along with me”
- **Got up:** Arose . to cause to rise up, raise up, raise up from laying down, to raise up from the dead,
- **Eating with them** signalled approval of them
- **Sinners:** devoted to sin, pre-eminently sinful, especially wicked
- **Call sinners** – sense of invite, same word used to invite to a wedding feast



The calling of Matthew

Cultural context

- He what???
- Tax collectors were proverbially rich and fanatically hated.
- Taxes were oppressive.

So what?

- Arose
- Left his booth

What do you want to leave in your booth?