

## MATTHEW—A SILENT WITNESS

TEXT: (Matthew 9:9-13, NIV)

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

<sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

INTRODUCTION:

1. "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1, NIV).

### I. THE BRIDGE BUILDER

#### A. The Theme of the Old Testament

1. "This is the book of the generations of Adam" (Genesis 5:1, KJV).
2. "When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image" (Genesis 5:3, NIV).

#### B. The Theme of the New Testament

1. "So it is written: 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit" (I Corinthians 15:45, NIV),
2. "The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven" (I Corinthians 15:47-49, NIV).
3. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in (or through) Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23, NIV).

#### C. To Show the Fulfilment

1. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2, NIV).
2. "When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel"' (Matthew 2:3-6, NIV).
3. "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14, NIV).
4. "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:18, NIV).

## II. THE BIOGRAPHER

1. “Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written” (John 21:25, NIV).

### A. A Systematic Record Keeper

1. The Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5–7).
2. The charge to the apostles (chapter 10).
3. The parables of the kingdom (chapter 13).
4. The lesson on forgiveness (chapter 18).
5. The denunciation of the Pharisees (chapter 23).
6. The Olivet discourse (chapters 24–25).

### B. He Focuses on the Kingdom.

1. “Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:5-6, NIV).
2. “In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near’” (Matthew 3:1–2, NIV).
3. “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom” (Matthew 4:23, NIV).
4. “As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near’” (Matthew 10:7, NIV).

### C. Emphasized Kingdom Requirements

1. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:3-12, NIV).

## III. THE CHURCH APOSTLE

1. “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Matthew 16:18, NIV).
2. “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector” (Matthew 18:17, NIV).
3. “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:5-6, NIV).

#### A. The Church Was to Be Composed of All Nations

1. “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28, NIV).
2. “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him’” (Matthew 2:1-2, NIV).
3. “When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.’ Jesus said to him, ‘I will go and heal him’” (Matthew 8:5-7, NIV).
4. “I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith” (Matthew 8:10, NIV).

#### B. The Church Would Change Lives

- 1 “As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector’s booth” (Mark 2:14, NIV).
2. “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector” (Matthew 18:17, NIV).

#### C. The Church Changed Lives

1. “Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them” (Luke 5:29, NIV).

#### CONCLUSION:

1. “You yourselves are all the endorsement we need. Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God’s living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives—and we publish it” (II Corinthians 3:2-3, MSG).
2. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16, NIV).
3. “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us” (I Peter 2:12, NIV).
4. “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God remould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity” (Romans 12:1-2, PHILLIPS).
5. “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life” (Philippians 2:14-16, NIV).