

What Jesus Said

8. Matthew 9:9-13 *Jesus calls Matthew to be his Disciple*

This story is found in St. Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 9 and is set between verses 9 and 13. – we write it like this: **Matthew 9:9-13**. *BibleHomework* uses this format throughout its website.

The Scripture:

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.

9:10 - While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.

9:11 - When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

9:12 - On hearing this, Jesus said, **"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.**

9:13 - **But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."**

The Explanation:

The country is now under the control of the Roman Empire and tax collectors – well, they work either for the Romans or for King Herod Antipas – so as with any tax collector even today they're not the most popular person in any Jewish town! Yet Jesus chooses a tax collector to be one of his Disciples and He explains why.

Places and People Mentioned:

- Pharisees:** The Pharisees were at various times a political party, a social movement, and a school of thought among Jews.
- Capernaum:** Located on the North shore of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum was where Matthew is said to have lived before he became a Disciple.
- Matthew:** St. Matthew was a tax collector in Capernaum prior to becoming a Disciple of Jesus. It is said he lived later years in Judea. He is described as one of the four 'Evangelists' of the Disciples. In Mark and Luke he is called Levi, son of Alphaeus

Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus chose a tax collector as one of His Disciples?
2. What would the Pharisees say about Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners?
3. Mathew 9:13 says **“But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”** What do you think this means?