

Study #3 - Matthew 9.9-17

Q1 - What does it say?

“Tax Collectors” – Matthew was collecting taxes for Herod Antipas. Working with the Rome-sanctioned government was viewed as a betrayal of Jewish identity by groups like the Pharisees.

“New wine” – before a batch of wine was ready to drink, it was poured into new wineskins, which can withstand the pressure generated by the final stage of fermentation. There is quite literally new life in the new wine.

Which verbs stand out to you in this passage? Have you seen some before?

Q2 - What does it mean?

Immediate context:

Jesus performs three sets of three miracles in Matt 8:1-17, 8:23-9:8, and 9:18-34. After the first set of three ends in Matt 8:17 there is a pause in the action. What is the main theme in 8:18-22? Are there any similarities with our passage for today? Any differences?

In Matthew:

The first disciples are called in Matt 4:18-22. Are there some similarities between that account and the calling of Matthew the tax collector? Why does the author provide no explanation for why people follow Jesus?

The theme of who is “in” and who is “out” is a thread that runs through the gospel of Matthew; e.g. Matt 3:7-10, 8:11-12, 12:38-42, 21:33-46. Why are some people out? What does Jesus say to them?

Elsewhere in scripture:

The combined image of wedding and wine: John 2:1-12

The LORD is the bridegroom: Isa 54:4-8; 62:4-5

Unrepentant Israel does not know God’s heart: Hos 6:4-6

An interesting prophecy from Jacob: Gen 49:10-12

Q3 - What has been revealed about Jesus through this passage?

We have seen Jesus interact with a variety of people in this passage. What do we learn about Jesus’ mission through these interactions?

Why does Jesus quote Hosea 6? What does this say about him?

Jesus has already established himself as an authoritative interpreter and giver of the Law during the Sermon on the Mount. What do his parables to the disciples of John reveal further about his identity?

Q4 - How will I respond? What will I pray?