

MORNING MEDITATION

St. Mathew, Apostle and Evangelist

God's love is steadfast and always something we can depend on, no matter what we have done or what our circumstances are.

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

Live a life worthy of your calling, with humility, meekness and patience, bearing with one another lovingly. Do all you can to preserve the unity which has the spirit as its origin and peace as its binding force.

Each of us, in our own way, must contribute to the building of the Body of Christ.

Psalm 19

**The heavens proclaim the glory of God;
And the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day pours out the word today,
And night to night imparts knowledge.**

Mathew 9:9-13

One of the most unlikely candidates was Mathew and he was called, and he rose and followed. Mathew was a man who not only extorted his own people but also swindled the government. Jesus saw not only what Mathew was but also what he could be - So Jesus called, and Mathew rose. What does this say to you today?

Reflect on what Mathew lost and what Mathew found. He lost a comfortable job, income, security, power.....But he found a new mission, honor, adventure, peace, joy, love, destiny, treasure eternal - wealth that he never dreamed of.

Jesus sits with Mathew and few others like him. Imagin sitting at table with the likes of Mathew!!! Jesus did much more. He dined with Mathew and others like him. Reflect on what this means to you today.

"I came not to call the righteous but sinners". The word used for "call" in Greek here is the technical word for inviting a guest to a house or to a meal. Remember, Jesus called Mathew! Reflect on what this means for you.

Saint of the day, September 21 - St. Mathew, Apostle and Evangelist and 11 other saints are remembered this day.

Little is known about the background of St. Matthew, except that he was a Jew, son of Alphaeus. He was working for the occupying Roman forces, collecting taxes from other Jews. The Romans were not scrupulous about what the tax collectors took for themselves. Therefore, the tax collectors were generally hated as traitors by their fellow Jews. The Pharisees considered them "publicans" and "sinners". So, it was shocking to them to hear Jesus call such a man to be one of his intimate followers and to see Jesus having dinner at a sinner's house.

The Gospel tells us that many tax collectors and "those known as sinners" came to the dinner. How could the supposedly great teacher associate with such immoral people? Jesus' answer was, "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners" (Matthew 9:1-13). From such an unlikely situation, Jesus chose one of the foundations of the Church, a man, judging from his job, thought was not holy enough for the position. Jesus called and Mathew got up and followed him" (Matthew 9:9). Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 A.D., Matthew wrote his Gospel in Aramaic, which was the common language spoken at the time of Jesus, hoping that his account would convince his fellow Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.

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