

***Sermon Title:* MATTHEW—THE TAX COLLECTOR**

***Date:* August 11, 2024 - Matthew 9:9-13**

Central Idea: God's greatest concern is the salvation of sinners. Is that your concern?

Introduction:

Matthew always referred to himself as Matthew. Mark and Luke always referred to him as Levi. We usually think of Matthew first as a tax collector. The call of Matthew is in the context of his having been a tax collector. For Jesus to enjoy the hospitality of his home and friends sets the stage for Jesus to be known as a friend of publicans and sinners. His calling Matthew to be a disciple places the authority of Christ over occupation. Our greatest vocation is to be a follower of Jesus, a disciple.

Jesus presents a challenge on “friendship evangelism.”

- I. Jesus asked persons of every walk to follow Him, vv. 9-10.**
- II. Jesus associated with sinners to win them to God, vv. 11-12.**
- III. Jesus actualized the extension of God's mercy to all people, v. 13.**

Conclusion:

The healing of the sick is a great miracle, and the raising of the dead an even greater one, but the salvation of the lost soul is the greatest miracle of all. Jesus is the Great Physician who came to heal sinners. If your praise and worship isn't making you more compassionate toward the lost, you've missed the point of church. Jesus' greatest concern is the salvation of sinners. Is that your concern?