

## KEY VERSE:

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right.*

**2 Timothy 3: 16**



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# FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

22nd May, 2016

## The Call of Levi



**EYEWITNESS : Matthew**



**CHALFONT  
ST. PETER  
PARISH CHURCHES**

## KNOW WHAT:

- Today we start a new series called 'Eyewitnesses' in which we look at four people who wrote first hand accounts of Jesus' life.
- The first is a Jewish man called Matthew who worked as a tax collector for the Romans who were occupying the country.
- A tax collector was regarded as a traitor by his own people and the system meant that he was almost always dishonest.
- Jesus saw Matthew sitting and collecting taxes. He invited Matthew to follow him and Matthew got up straight away and did so.
- Matthew became one of Jesus' twelve disciples. He wrote what we know as the Gospel of Matthew.

## SO WHAT:

- Jesus invites all of us to follow him.
- We each have different gifts and abilities and can serve Jesus in different ways.

## NOW WHAT:

- Let us respond to Jesus' call and follow him, even if it means a radical change in the way we live.
- Let us offer our gifts and abilities to God so that he can use them to help others.

## JIM'S JOTTINGS

One of the toughest decisions of your life.

It is Wednesday, and I have already met two people in the village this week who have told me that they have recently made really tough decisions to move from successful, demanding and well paid jobs in order to spend more time with the family. But it is not easy and not everyone can make that choice, faced with large mortgages and other expensive commitments.

Today we look at the story of a man called Matthew. He was a wealthy tax collector employed by the Romans to raise money from the conquered Jewish people. As such he was regarded as a traitor by his own people and was employed in a job in which it was almost impossible to be honest. Then Jesus appeared and challenged him to leave his job and become a disciple. He did so immediately, leaving much of the security he had relied on. Instead he became a person who changed world history. His book, the Gospel of Matthew, is an eyewitness account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Down through the centuries many people have read the Gospel of Matthew and found new hope and purpose in life as a result. May we encourage you to do the same?

There are different ways to do so. As you leave today please feel free to take a pocket sized copy of Matthew's Gospel, great to read on the train or at other times when you have a few minutes. You can also find Matthew online via the You Version App or via BibleGateway.com. If you prefer to use your own Bible, Matthew is the first book in the New Testament.

The whole Gospel can be read in about half an hour without rushing. Why not try it? It's worth the investment.