Seeing Value: Lessons from the Calling of Matthew



Explore how Jesus sees worth and potential beyond shame through Matthew's calling, revealing grace and new beginnings.





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Introduction

The story of **Matthew's calling** from tax collector to disciple is one of the most profound examples of *Jesus' grace and vision* in the Gospels. Matthew 9:9–13 reveals how Jesus looks beyond what society deems shameful and unworthy and instead sees the potential for transformation and purpose. Unlike the crowds who shunned tax collectors as traitors and sinners, Jesus extends an invitation to Matthew, demonstrating that no life is too tarnished for God's redeeming love.

This seven-day study will walk with you through the powerful truths found in this passage. You'll discover how Jesus' radical acceptance challenges societal norms and how His call invites us all into a journey of renewed identity. We'll explore the themes of grace, repentance, mercy, and the establishment of new community through Him. Each day offers scripture, devotionals, reflection questions, journaling ideas, and prayers to deepen your understanding and experience of Christ's heart toward those marginalized or overlooked.

As you journey through this study, consider the profound value Jesus assigns to every individual. His call to Matthew demonstrates that God's love sees who we can become rather than just who we have been.

Let this experience inspire you to embrace your own worth and extend grace to others, seeing the potential and value where people often see shame.

















Your Verse

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.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Mark 2:14 'As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.'
- Luke 5:27 'After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him.'







Devotional: Jesus Calls Beyond Our Past

The calling of Matthew challenges us to see beyond reputation and societal labels. Tax collectors were widely despised, considered traitors to their people and sinners for their greed. Yet, Jesus intentionally chose Matthew, breaking cultural barriers by offering grace to one others discarded. This act was a profound statement about Jesus' heart—He calls not the righteous, but the broken and outcast.

Imagine the transformation that began the moment Matthew stood up and followed. His response shows the power of Jesus' invitation—an invitation to a new life, new purpose, and new identity. Jesus saw value in Matthew that others overlooked. This calls us to reflect: Who in our lives might Jesus see potential in, even if others do not?

As believers, we are also called to follow with obedience, trusting Jesus' vision over the world's opinion. Accepting His call means embracing grace and leaving behind old shame.







Reflect and Apply

	What labels or shame might you be holding onto that Jesus invites you to leave behind?
	How does Jesus' acceptance of Matthew challenge your view of others society rejects?
3.	Are there areas in your life where you feel unworthy of God's call? Why?







Journaling Prompts

	Write about a moment you felt unworthy but experienced God's acceptance.
2.	List the 'shame labels' you want to surrender to Jesus today.
3.	Journal how you can follow Jesus more obediently in a specific area of your life.







Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You for looking past my mistakes and seeing the potential You have placed inside me. Help me respond as Matthew did—with obedience and trust in Your calling. Teach me to extend that same grace to others. May my life reflect Your transforming love, breaking through shame and fear. Amen. \bigwedge

















Your Verse

Matthew 9:12-13 - 'On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Supporting Scriptures

- Hosea 6:6 'For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.'
- James 2:13 'Mercy triumphs over judgment.'







Devotional: The Heart of Jesus: Mercy over Judgment

Jesus emphasizes mercy as central to His mission. His words reveal that God's heart is for healing and compassion—not just external religious rituals. Drawing near to sinners like Matthew showcased His desire to restore and redeem rather than condemn.

Mercy is a lifeline to the brokenhearted. It brings healing where judgment wounds. Jesus invites us to reflect His mercy to the world and ourselves.

Remember, grace is not about excusing sin, but about extending compassion that fosters repentance and transformation. Jesus' call to Matthew is a vivid example that God's mercy reaches us precisely because of our need—not despite it.







Reflect and Apply

	How does understanding God's desire for mercy change how you view your relationship with Him?
2.	In what ways can you embody mercy in your daily interactions?
	Are there people you struggle to show grace to? Why might Jesus want you to extend mercy to them?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Recall a time someone showed you unexpected mercy and write about its impact.
2.	List ways you can practice mercy this week with family, friends, or strangers.
3.	Reflect on moments when you judged rather than showed mercy; ask God for a merciful heart.







Prayer for Today

Gracious Father, thank You for Your mercy that meets me in my brokenness. Teach me to show that same mercy to others, guarding my heart against judgment. Help me to walk in compassion and extend grace freely, as You have done for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

















Your Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17 – 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!'

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 6:4 'We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too may live a new life.'
- Galatians 2:20 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.'







Devotional: Embracing Your New Identity in Christ

Jesus called Matthew not just to follow but to become a new creation. The tax collector's past was marked by betrayal and separation, yet in responding to Jesus' call, Matthew stepped into a fresh identity defined by grace and purpose.

In Christ, we leave behind our old selves—our shame, our failures—and embrace the new life He offers. This transformative power removes labels placed on us by the world and replaces them with God's truth about who we really are.

This day is a reminder that God's calling invites you to live fully in your new identity. Like Matthew, your past does not disqualify you but can become the foundation for God's glory.







Reflect and Apply

	What old identities or labels do you need to surrender to live fully in Christ?
2.	How does knowing you are a new creation affect your self-perception?
	What practical steps can you take to live out your new identity more boldly?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about who you were before Christ and who you are becoming now.
2.	List scriptures that affirm your new identity and meditate on them.
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	Describe how embracing your new identity can impact your daily choices.







Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, thank You for making me new in Christ. Help me to fully embrace my new identity and live according to Your purpose. Remove any remaining doubts or shame and fill me with the confidence that comes from being Your beloved child. Guide my steps as I walk this new path. Amen. 🕰













Day 4: Called into Community









Day 4: 🂝 Called into Community

Your Verse

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

Supporting Scriptures

- Acts 2:42 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.'
- Hebrews 10:24-25 'Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together.'







Day 4: 🂢 Called into Community

Devotional: The Power of Community in Christ

Jesus' meal at Matthew's house demonstrates His desire to build a community inclusive of those rejected by society. This inward-focused gathering showed that the kingdom of God embraces all and fosters belonging.

Community is essential to our spiritual journey. In Luke's gospel, Jesus repeatedly dines with tax collectors and sinners to demonstrate fellowship that bridges gaps and heals divisions. Matthew's story reminds us that following Jesus also means stepping into a supportive and embracing family of faith.

Are you involved in a community where grace is extended freely? Jesus calls us not only to follow Him as individuals but to grow in relationship with others who uplift us on the journey.







Day 4: 💝 Called into Community

Reflect and Apply

1.	How has community helped or hindered your faith journey?
2.	What qualities make a community welcoming and grace-filled?
	In what ways can you cultivate or seek out authentic Christian fellowship?







Day 4: 💝 Called into Community

Journaling Prompts

1.	Reflect on your current faith community and what it means to you.
2.	Write about a time you experienced true belonging in a church or group.
3.	Consider practical ways to deepen your connection with fellow believers.







Day 4: 🎔 Called into Community

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for inviting me into Your family. Help me find or create community rooted in love and acceptance. Teach me to support others as You support me, and may our fellowship glorify You. Bind us together in unity and grace. Amen. 😂 💙 🏠









Day 5: 🎇 Called to Witness









Day 5: 🞇 Called to Witness

Your Verse

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

Supporting Scriptures

- Acts 1:8 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.'
- Matthew 28:19 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.'







Day 5: 🞇 Called to Witness

Devotional: Living Out a Christ-Centered Witness

Jesus' engagement with marginalized people drew attention and sometimes criticism, opening opportunities to witness God's love to the world. His relationship with Matthew and others challenges believers to boldly step out and share the good news, even when it is unpopular.

Witnessing is more than words; it is living a life that reflects Jesus' acceptance and mercy. Just as Matthew followed Jesus and became a disciple sharing God's message, we too are called to be lights in a world that often rejects grace.

Consider how your life witnesses the love of Christ. Whose questions or criticism might God be preparing you to respond to with truth and compassion?







Day 5: 🎇 Called to Witness

Reflect and Apply

1.`	Where have you experienced resistance or criticism for following Jesus?
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2.	How can you effectively share God's love with those who doubt or judge?
	What steps can you take to be a more intentional witness in your community?







Day 5: 🎇 Called to Witness

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time you shared your faith and what you learned from it.
2.	List fears or obstacles that keep you from witnessing and pray over them.
3.	Describe ways your daily life can model Christ's love to others.







Day 5: 🞇 Called to Witness

Prayer for Today

Father, empower me with Your Spirit to be an effective witness for You. Give me courage to share Your love boldly, especially with those who don't yet know You. Help my life reflect Your light and truth in all I do. Amen. 6









Day 6: Called to Faithfulness









Day 6: **(**) Called to Faithfulness

Your Verse

Matthew 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.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Micah 6:8 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'
- Colossians 3:23 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.'







Day 6: **(**) Called to Faithfulness

Devotional: Living Faithfully Through Mercy and Humility

Faithfulness involves living in mercy as Jesus teaches rather than empty rituals. Jesus' reminder to learn what mercy truly means calls believers to active love and justice. It's a call to continual growth in the character of Christ through faithful obedience.

Being faithful means choosing mercy daily, reflecting Jesus' heart. Our actions stand as evidence of our commitment to walk humbly and serve others in love.

Matthew's story encourages us to align our faith with mercy, justice, and humility, living out what Jesus models through relationship rather than religious performance.







Day 6: ① Called to Faithfulness

Reflect and Apply

1.	How can you grow in mercy in your daily life?
2.	Are there areas where your faith feels routine rather than faithfulness? Why?
3.	What does walking humbly with God look like for you right now?







Day 6: ① Called to Faithfulness

Journaling Prompts

	Write about ways you can practice mercy this week within your family or community.
	Reflect on your spiritual disciplines and evaluate their connection to mercy and humility.
3.	Journal what faithfulness means to you in your current season.







Day 6: **(**) Called to Faithfulness

Prayer for Today

Lord God, teach me to live faithfully in Your mercy, choosing love and justice over ritual. Help me walk humbly with You, reflecting Your heart to those around me. Strengthen my commitment to serve others with grace. Amen.



















Your Verse

Romans 12:2 - 'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Ephesians 4:22–24 'You were taught to put off your old self...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.'
- Philippians 1:6 'He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.'







Devotional: Embracing God's Transforming Power

Matthew's calling was the beginning of a lifelong transformation. Jesus invites each of us into that process—renewing our minds, hearts, and lives to reflect His holiness and grace.

Transformation is ongoing. It requires willingness to let go of worldly values and renew thinking according to God's truth. Jesus offers hope that what He starts in us, He will faithfully complete.

As you conclude this study, embrace Jesus' call to transformation, knowing He sees your potential and values you deeply.







Reflect and Apply

1.	In what ways has God begun transforming you recently?
2.	What patterns of this world do you need to resist more?
	How can you cooperate with God's work in completing your transformation?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe changes you want to see in your heart and mind.
2	List scriptures that encourage transformation and moditate on them
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3.	Write a prayer committing yourself to God's ongoing renewal.
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Prayer for Today

Gracious God, thank You for the power to transform me from the inside out. Help me resist worldly patterns and be renewed in my mind and heart. Strengthen me to embrace Your work until it is complete in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.







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