

S.N. Jan 2, 83 A.M.

'CALLING TO DISCIPLESHIP IN '83'

Matthew 9:9-13

Every intelligent life must be on a journey toward an ideal. This ideal is a pattern in the mind, held up before its eye, for realization and guidance.

As a definite plan is essential to the workman in the erection of his building.

As a star guided the wise men of the East to the place where the Christ child lay.

Every invention was first in the mind of some man for years. James Watt's vision in time became the steam engine; the telegraph from Morse; the telephone from Bell; artist Millet gazed for 20 years at flying clouds, by and by bought a 60¢ piece of canvas, brush and colors and spread the glories of heaven --- a painting worth \$105,000.00.

v. 9. "And as Jesus passed from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew."

This is a man's account of himself!

Matthew is the writer of these words. Surely he was most modest, for I know not how his self-description could have been shortened. He simply describes himself as "a man named Matthew", and he says that Jesus saw him as such. At that point he understates the case.

Jesus saw much more:

Jesus saw a man. Was he a registrar, numbering the people in ones and twos --- was he merely statistician, putting down the human family in arithmetical figures. He saw more than we mean by that term --- He saw a man --- He saw that term in all the fulness --- He saw man in all of the tragedy.

Jesus saw the ideal man, he saw the possible man, he saw the undeveloped acorn, he saw growth, future.

We have tendency to bypass a man.

We find it easy to find on the tongue quick judgment and call some persons nobodies.

We take pride in it, we say this man is little and that man is contemptible, and yonder is a man who is a nobody.

We hurl our depreciatory adjectives at all and whom we do not care for.

Therein we show the little side of our nature.

Every man is of some account, every man is somebody;
it takes a Christ to warm us into our best consciousness.

We snub men, frown upon them and send them away with
unkind judgment.

Jesus looks upon a man, he looks into his nobler
manhood.

Jesus wants to look at you --- why do you turn your
face.

He was a man named Matthew; that name is the only
foothold which the writer of this gospel claims for himself
in human history.

What would we write if we write a man's name. It is
nothing to us but something to go by, a mere handle, an identity
pointing to a particular individual.

But the giving of that name took a whole day in the
family long ago: It was canvassed, it was made a matter of
reference, it was carefully balanced with other possible names,

it was prayed over, it was snatched from the grave that superior excellence might be remembered, that kind memories might be glorified through the generations to come. Yet how foolishly people name their children, and with utter ignorance they send them forth with the most misleading and most laughable names.

A conscientious minister decided to get acquainted with a new family in his congregation and called on them one spring evening.

After his knock on the door, a lilting voice from within called out, "Is that you, Angel?" "No", replied the minister, "but I'm from the same department."

Today we even name our cars --- have you observed any of this special license tags with the driver's name. Tony --- Sue --- Sam ---

Noisey 1 - Dieter - Stuffed - Over 39 - Arumpy
Just Think of Naming your car Laugh, Doctor, Rose an, Sun, + Yummy!

A farmer heard a loud crash out front and ran out to find a dazed motorist parked at the edge of the road.

"What happened?" the farmer asked.

"A cow ran in front of me", the motorist replied;
"and I hit her."

Yet the son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

We are lost --- He is in quest of us, is there anything we can do in helping him to find us?

"I will", said the daughter of Pharaoh, "call him Moses because I drew him out of the water."

So are our names given, they are monumental names or memorial names; they represent affection, interest, kindness.

No child was ever purposely called by the name of a bad man.

The wicked have no real friends; there be many eagles that pluck them, there are no angels that bless them.

Did you call your child by his name because it was the name of a drunkard?

Did you reason thus with yourself saying, "my little girl shall bear the name of a woman who was notoriously bad?"

Many times I have heard such reasoning, "we will call

In other words, he was going about his daily business. He was found --- sought out, he represented a special class of the christian elect. He was following a despised occupation.

There are despised occupations now, there are occupations and trades we recoil from. Who wants to be the relative of an evil person.

There are some folks who look a sight in their work clothes!

In their Sunday best they look like fine people. It is not my job to give any opinion as to the conflicting merits of occupations and professions. But I want to see a man through all circumstances as Jesus never failed to do.

The Pharisees called Matthew a publican --- a tax collector --- a sinner --- an alien.

So was Zacchaeus but when the time came for Jesus to speak of Zacchaeus he said "He is a son of Abraham" and the little man stood up a king.

When Jesus sees us the very least, meanest does he say "He is a son of Abraham?"

And He said "Follow me" --- Is that all? That is all.
It is imperative --- absolute.

When does a king say "if you please?"

The queen --- when she sends for someone "she always
commands them".

Jesus --- follow me --- command --- He commands you and
me just as absolutely today. "Follow me, come unto me." That is
his command, his compassionate edict.

He never says "Follow me to do me any service that I
cannot do without."

He uttered the word "follow" with a tone which meant
"and you shall have all heaven for the following".

It is no scourging that would drive men before it, it is
the tone of a complete assurance and an indestructible purpose.
The fulness of his grace, will you come?

He did not go to Matthew and raise him from the seat,
he did not employ any mechanical powers for the purpose of drawing
Matthew, he did not put on a show: he launched his word.

It is an old way of his, it began with, "let there be light, and there was light" and the chaotic mass waiting for the word and could not move until that word was spoken.

The Bible is full of commandments and they are not grievous.

"And he arose and followed him." How easy it is for some men to rise and follow Christ, as compared with others.

They seem to fall in the way of faith, it is like bringing the sun to bear upon a bud that wants to open, and that is just waiting for light in order that it might unfold its deep beauty.

It is so easy for some men to pray, they seem to walk up the gentle slope to meet God on the mountains.

When other men pray it is like climbing a rugged steep rock, some of the stones are loose, and if you put your foot upon them you will fall.

It is easy for some men to be benevolent and relieve a case of need.

It is so easy for some people to go to church; they like it, they wait for Sunday; when they open their eyes upon the Lord's

day they say, "thank God, this is the King's day."

Other men have to be dragged to church and the "Amen" of the preacher is like the conclusion of a jail sentence and they run from the sacred place.

But God is able to subdue and bring even our reluctant hearts to his throne.

He will reach some of you yet. It was not easy to get you here this morning, but already your hearts are warming towards him, who is Lord of this house and king of this day. You can help his conquest by your consent.

This act of obedience is to be done with the impulse of love.

Christ never drags a man after him. Christ never says "I will bind your hand and foot and take you captive!"

We follow with feet of love and obedience.

My Lord calls me, I must go --- I know his voice, its infinite sweetness, it fills me like a gospel.

Christ will not take a mighty hand and take you against your will.

He never forces his omnipotence.

His command is inspired by love.

Hear him, "Rise, he calleth for thee. The master is come and calleth for thee".

No other man ever wanted to see you.

No other person ever cared for you.

Here is the unmerited grace.

v. 10 "And it came to pass as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples."

It was probably in Matthew's house

Luke 9:29 - says Levi made a feast

Matthew by all historical accounts, not a poor man, but one who could show hospitality of the kind indicated in the text.

Publicans and sinners came and sat down with Jesus --- that was an unconscious tribute.

How is it that we are drawn to certain people whom we have

never met before and by some mystery in five minutes we feel a bond.

Have you looked into the eye of poverty and grief ---

Did anyone ever stop you to tell a tale of grief? Yes, thank God for the interruption.

The publicans and sinners got round him as cold people get round a fire.

They are cold and here is fire.

If you felt the cold you would draw near to the great fire of Christ's love ---

And until you do feel the cold I can do nothing with you.

One who would do you good if you would allow him.

v. 11 When the Pharisees saw it, they said, "Why doth your master eat with publicans and sinners?"

This is a narrow criticism ---

All men have at least got this far in the tormenting art of criticism --- they are able to find fault. Who cannot find fault with any sermon he ever heard.

How did Jesus reply to this narrow criticism?

v. 12 When Jesus heard that he said "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."

Jesus Christ lived in great principles and so he lived above public opinion.

v. 13 Jesus said "I will have mercy --- I am come to call sinners to repentance."

Calling to discipleship in 1983 ---

A Quiet Worker - Pentecost Acts 1:13

Have you answered the call.

Tradition says Matthew Did A Martyr in Ethiopia -

Harry Foxdick wrote about John D. Rockefeller - Who more than any other was responsible for building Riverside Church in N.Y. City, one Sunday A.M. A morning congregation waiting to be shown to her seat, found Mrs. Rockefeller who arrived later than usual standing at her side.

She overheard him say to the usher, as he looked at the over-crowded church, "It not disturb the congregation by going to my usual pew, I'll find a seat in the balcony!"

Whisper an exquisite stranger, not recognizing Mrs. Rockefeller said to the usher "show me to a seat downstairs" "I am not the balcony type!"

Matthew "I saw a man named Matthew" - simple - plain