

## I. Matthew's Situation

- A. Matthew's given name is Levi
- B. Lives in the city of Capernaum
  - 1. Not a large town
  - 2. Situated at the northern end of the Sea of Galilee
  - 3. Crossroads for merchandise being transported
- C. Levi was a tax collector
  - 1. Part of a large team that collected taxes on transported goods
  - 2. In a position that took considerable effort to obtain but had great potential for financial reward
  - 3. In a lonely position
    - a. Hated by Jews
    - b. Used by the Romans
- D. Probably one of the last people anyone would have expected to have spiritual interest

## II. The Lord's Call

- A. Jesus approached Levi with a different outlook than others
  - 1. Jesus saw a man, not a tax collector
  - 2. Jesus saw a man named Matthew, not Levi
    - a. Matthew – the gift of God

## B. Jesus delivers a two word call – *Follow Me*

1. This was most likely not the first contact Levi had with Jesus
  - a. Two stories always associated with the call of Levi
    - (1) Cleansing of the leper – *If you are willing*
    - (2) Healing of the paralytic – *Son your sins are forgiven*
2. Levi must have had time to assess who Jesus was
  - a. There is indication that Levi was a student of the Old Testament
  - b. There is no indication that Levi had made his thoughts about Jesus public
3. The entire call of God to us is contained in those two words
  - a. Follow me is more than just walking behind someone
  - b. Following means to join another on their path and speak with them as you go

## III. Matthew's Response

- A. Note first that the whole response was non verbal
- B. The response involved an intellectual persuasion
- C. The response is sealed in a choice of the will
  1. Left everything
  2. Got up
  3. Began a continual habit of following Jesus