



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - March 25, 2012

Sermon

"The Apostle Matthew"

Luke 2:1-20

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 3/26/12

Matthew 10:3

Matthew's list of disciples includes Matthew's name but also that he was a tax collector. He is one of the very few disciples in the list who have anything more than his name mentioned. Why is this important? Is what you do for a living important? What do you think of tax collectors? Uh huh, that stigma was present even back in Jesus' day. And Jesus chose to call even a tax collector to be one of his closest followers! How do you think Jesus treated tax collectors? How do you think he wants us to treat tax collectors today?

Tuesday 3/27/12

Matthew 9:9-11

Here we have the story of how Jesus called Matthew to follow him. Jesus said, "Follow me" and Matthew followed him! Then we hear that some questionable people were reclining with Jesus and the disciples. The term "reclining" refers to how one would eat a meal back in Jesus' day. There was a small table, low to the floor, around which people would recline by laying on the floor around this table. So Jesus was eating a meal with tax collectors and sinners! How does this make you feel? Do you eat with tax collectors and sinners? Are you better than them? Who do you eat meals with?

Wednesday 3/28/12

Matthew 9:12

Jesus heard this commotion and the question the Pharisees asked his disciples. So he answered the question directly. Did you hear how he answered their question? In effect, Jesus said he was there, not for the religious people, but for the sinners! How does this make you feel? Who is the church here for today? Those who are well spiritually or those who struggle with faith? Should the church cater to its own or reach out to the least, the lost, and the lonely?



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<p>Things to do this week in response to the sermon...</p> <p><i>With whom do you share meals with and visit usually? What does this say about you?</i></p>	<p>Thursday 3/29/12 Luke 5:27-29</p> <p>Luke also tells this story about Matthew, the tax collector. Luke indicates his name was Levi and that he was sitting at the place where tolls were collected. This was a common strategy during the Roman domination and the people absolutely hated all the taxes and tolls required of them, let alone the ones who collected these taxes and tolls. What do you honestly think about taxes and tolls? What did Jesus say about them?</p>
<p><i>With whom did Jesus spend much of his time?</i></p> <p><i>How can you be more open of people who are different from you?</i></p> <p><i>What stories in the gospel of Matthew speaks to me today?</i></p>	<p>Friday 3/30/11 Matthew 5-8</p> <p>Most scholars believe that the apostle Matthew wrote the gospel of Matthew, the first book in our New Testament. Take some time today and look over some of the stories that Matthew includes in his gospel. One example is the Sermon on the Mount. Why do you think Matthew included the stories that he did? What is Matthew trying to say in his gospel? What do you learn from reading his gospel?</p>
	<p>Saturday 3/31/11 Luke 20:21-25</p> <p>April 15th, "Tax Day," is fast-approaching. Do you have your taxes ready? Deadlines are sometimes a nuisance in our daily living, but what do you think about taxes? Do you remember the Boston Tea Party? What prompted these events? Even in Jesus' day the people were sick and tired of taxes. So one day, some people asked Jesus what he thought about taxes. Luke records this event in the 20th chapter. Do you hear Jesus' response? How do you feel about this answer that Jesus gave to his questioners? Does Jesus say anything else that might be difficult for us to hear?</p>