

CHRISTIANITY NOW AND THEN
(PART 1)
Matthew's Story: "The Change"

Matthew 9:9-13

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When our lives are transformed by Jesus Christ we become people with powerful influence used by God to change people's lives, neighborhoods, attitudes, and society.

* **The message of Matthew's life teaches us that:**

1. *The change resulting from _____ will do us good.*

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. Matthew 9:9

2. *A spiritual rebirth changes our _____.*

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him. Matthew 10:2-4

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" Matthew 9:10-11

3. *Jesus changes our _____ and _____.*

Jesus' response to the Jewish religious leaders' (the Pharisees) criticism was:

"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." Matthew 9:12-13

4. *Changed people impact and change the _____.*

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

See Christ's Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, 6, and 7.

How can you experience the change Matthew experienced?

1. How do you need to grow and change? Have you been so focused on getting others to change that you have failed to realize that the only person you can change is yourself? Where will you start making changes in your Christian life?
2. How can the church change and impact our community? What can you do to make an impact? How can you team up with other Christians to make a positive impact at work, in your neighborhood, at school, in government, and in places of business?
3. Do some further study: read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, chapters 5, 6, and 7. Go a step further: read through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John during the month of June (this requires reading only about three pages a day in the paperback Bibles at the Information Tables).