

## Matthew: The Tax Collector

1. Read Luke 5:27-32. Based on Matthew's actions, what do you gather about his state of mind (and heart) at the time that Jesus came along? What did Jesus mean when He said that He had come to minister to people just like Matthew and his friends?
2. Read Luke 18:18-23. What invitation did Jesus extend to this man? What difference do you see in the way he responded as compared to Matthew, Andrew, Peter, James, and John?
3. Read Romans 8:30. Is it possible for someone to be effectively called who does not ultimately desire to be saved? What other scripture confirms this truth?
4. Read Luke 19:1-10. Zaccheus was also a despised tax collector. What parallels do you see between his story and the story of Matthew's calling? What new perspective did Zaccheus gain after his encounter with Jesus?
5. Read Romans 1:16. As you reflect on the power of the gospel, how do you see God's grace and providence in your own testimony and salvation?
6. Read 1 Tim. 1:15-16. How does Matthew and Zaccheus' testimonies help us to better understand our sinfulness? And how can we use that understanding to better love those who are lost around us?
7. How do you typically pray for your loved one's salvation? Why do you ask God to open their eyes to the truth?
8. What are some of the results of God's call to you, as an ordinary person, to serve Him as His disciple?