

The Men the King Chose, Part V

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The King and His Glory / Apostle; Christ; Thomas; Matthew / Matthew 10:2–4

In Matthew 10:2-4, Matthew deliberately names the twelve men upon whom Christ chose to build His church and advance His Kingdom.

Pre-Sermon Comments

2 Corinthians 5:17 LSB

¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Introduction

“I have never met so daring a blasphemer. Not content with common oaths I daily invented new ones so that even the Captain, who was not a Christian, rebuked me.” ~ John Newton

I stood in need of an Almighty Saviour... I was no longer an infidel. ~ John Newton

Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 10:2-4](#), Matthew deliberately names the twelve men upon whom Christ chose to build His church and advance His Kingdom. Today, we will study two more:

- **Philip: A Picture of Growing Faith [Review]**
- **Bartholomew (Nathanael): A Picture of Sincere Faith [Review]**
- **Thomas: A Picture of Faith Strengthened Through Doubt**

- **Matthew: A Picture of Radically Transformed Allegiance**

Discussion Questions

The sermon said salvation is not just a change in destination but a change in identity. How did your identity change when you came to Christ?

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#) says believers are “new creations.” What are some specific ways you have seen the “old things” pass away and “new things” come in your life?

John Newton spent years running from God before being saved. What does his story teach you about God’s patience and His pursuit of sinners?

Why do you think people sometimes feel their past disqualifies them from being used by God, and how does the gospel challenge that belief?

Thomas and Matthew were unlikely candidates, yet Christ transformed and used them greatly. How does that encourage you when you think about your own weaknesses or failures?

Conversion is described as a radical transformation, not merely moral improvement. How would you explain the difference between those two ideas?

What are some areas of your life where Christ is still transforming your desires, priorities, or thinking?

How does knowing that Christ still transforms sinners today encourage you in your walk with Him and in sharing the gospel with others?

Sermon Text

Matthew 10:1–4 LSB

¹ And summoning His twelve disciples, *Jesus* gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. ² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon,

who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.

Review

Philip: A Picture of Growing Faith

Bartholomew (Nathanael): A Picture of Sincere Faith

John 1:45–49 LSB

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and *also* the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ And Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said about him, “Behold, truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, “From where do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”

Discussion Questions

According to [2 Corinthians 5:17](#), what does it mean to be a “new creation” in Christ? What specifically changes?

Why is it important to understand that salvation is not merely a change in destination (heaven), but a change in identity?

How would you explain the difference between behavior modification and true spiritual transformation?

Why do you think Scripture emphasizes identity (“new creation”) rather than merely improved conduct?

What aspects of John Newton's story demonstrate that salvation is entirely a work of God's sovereign grace?

Why is John Newton's conversion so encouraging for believers today?

What does his story teach us about God's ability to save people who seem far from Him?

How does understanding sovereign grace give you hope for unbelieving friends or family members?

Why do you think Jesus chose ordinary, flawed men like Philip, Nathanael, Thomas, and Matthew to build His church?

What does Christ's choice of these men reveal about His purposes and priorities?

How does this encourage you personally in your own usefulness to Christ?

Philip struggled to trust Christ's power when facing practical limitations ([John 6:7](#)). Why do believers often fall into the same pattern?

How does Philip's gradual growth encourage you in your own spiritual development?

What does Philip's life teach us about Christ's patience with His disciples?

Nathanael initially had prejudice but responded immediately when confronted with the truth. What does this reveal about the nature of sincere faith?

Why is sincerity and honesty before God essential for genuine spiritual growth?

In what ways has Christ transformed your thinking, desires, or priorities since your conversion?

Are there areas of your life where you still struggle to trust Christ fully?

Have you ever felt disqualified from being useful to Christ because of your past?

How does this passage challenge that thinking?

How should the reality that you are a “new creation” affect how you live this week?

Thomas: A Picture of Faith Strengthened Through Doubt

The Apostle with a Bad Reputation

His Biographical Sketch

Acts 1:11 LSB

They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

Matthew 10:2–4 LSB

² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.

Mark 3:16–19 LSB

¹⁶ And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), ¹⁷ and James, the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, “Sons of Thunder”); ¹⁸ and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

Matthew and Thomas, then, will be found side by side, with a common experience and a personal sympathy helpful to both. These two were inseparables, the one clinging to the other, as his shadow. Herbert Lockyer

Thomas: Courageous Loyalty in the Face of Death

John 11:11–15 LSB

¹¹ He said these things, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him.” ¹² The disciples then said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be saved *from his sickness*.” ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of actual sleep. ¹⁴ So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.”

John 11:16 LSB

¹⁶ Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to *his* fellow disciples, “Let us also go, so that we may die with Him.”

His attitude at this juncture in Christ’s ministry was a sign of his attachment and devotion to Him, and marks him as having a love both deep and strong as that of any other disciple. His was a love that counted no sacrifice too great, and, as one of the bravest of the brave, he was willing to go into the very jaws of death in the company of his Lord. ~ Herbert Lockyer

Matthew 16:24 LSB

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

Thomas - The Seeker of Truth

John 14:1–4 LSB

¹ “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ “And you know the way where I am going.”

John 14:5 LSB

⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How do we know the way?”

John 14:6 LSB

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.

Doubting Thomas

John 20:19–23 LSB

¹⁹ So while it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and while the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace *be* with you.” ²⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them* and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ “If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained.”

John 20:24 LSB

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

John 11:8 LSB

⁸ The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?”

John 11:16 LSB

¹⁶ Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to *his* fellow disciples, “Let us also go, so that we may die with Him.”

John 20:25 LSB

²⁵ So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

The story of Thomas proves, if proof were needed, that the apostles were not a set of silly devotees, who were ready to believe whatever was told them, for there was at least one among them who insisted on proof and evidence, as might a Tyndell or a Huxley. ~ Robert Ellis Thompson

John 20:26 LSB

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace *be* with you.”

It was his sincerity which prompted him to stand aloof from the rest of the apostles until he had attained to personal conviction regarding the resurrection. The same sincerity was to draw from him the greatest testimony ever made of Christ. ~ Herbert Lockyer

John 20:27 LSB

²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Bring your finger here, and see My hands; and bring your hand *here* and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

John 20:28 LSB

²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

John 20:29 LSB

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* those who did not see, and yet believed.”

Discussion Questions

In [John 11:16](#), what does Thomas say when Jesus decides to return to Judea? What does this reveal about his heart attitude toward Jesus?

In [John 14:5](#), what specific question does Thomas ask Jesus? What does this reveal about his mindset?

How does Jesus respond to Thomas's question in [John 14:6](#), and why is this one of the most important statements Jesus ever made?

According to [John 20:25](#), what was Thomas unwilling to do without physical evidence? What exactly did he say he needed?

How does Jesus respond to Thomas in [John 20:27](#)? What does this reveal about Christ's patience and compassion?

What is Thomas's response in [John 20:28](#), and why is this confession so significant?

Why do you think Thomas was willing to die with Jesus in [John 11:16](#), even though he expected the worst?

How does Thomas's question in [John 14:5](#) demonstrate that he was a sincere seeker of truth rather than a hardened skeptic?

Why is it inaccurate or incomplete to define Thomas primarily as a doubter?

How did Thomas's doubt ultimately serve to strengthen his faith rather than destroy it?

In [John 20:28](#), what does Thomas's confession, "My Lord and my God," reveal about his understanding of Jesus?

How does Thomas's story strengthen the credibility of the resurrection account?

What does Jesus's willingness to meet Thomas in his doubt teach us about His character?

How does Jesus demonstrate both gentleness and authority in His interaction with Thomas?

What does Thomas's confession teach us about the identity of Jesus Christ?

How does this account demonstrate Christ's ability to strengthen weak or struggling faith?

Have you ever experienced seasons of doubt, confusion, or uncertainty in your walk with Christ? How did those seasons affect your faith?

What is the difference between honest doubt that seeks truth and unbelief that rejects truth?

How should Thomas's example encourage believers who struggle with questions or uncertainties?

How does Thomas's loyalty challenge us to follow Christ even when we do not fully understand His plans?

In what ways can doubt, when handled rightly, become a means of strengthening faith?

What practical steps can we take when we experience spiritual doubts?

Do you truly confess Jesus as "My Lord and my God," not just intellectually, but personally and practically?

Are there areas in your life where you are struggling to trust Christ fully?

Is your faith in Christ growing stronger over time, or are you allowing doubts to weaken your trust in Him?

How does Thomas's example encourage you to bring your questions honestly to Christ rather than withdrawing from Him?

Thomas moved from doubt to one of the clearest confessions of Christ's deity in Scripture. What does his transformation teach us about the power of Christ to strengthen and mature His people?

Matthew: A Picture of Transformed Allegiance

His Biographical Sketch

Numbers 3:6 LSB

⁶ “Bring the tribe of Levi near and have them stand before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him.

Deuteronomy 10:8 LSB

⁸ At that time Yahweh set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, to stand before Yahweh to minister for Him and to bless in His name to this day.

Luke 5:27–28 LSB

²⁷ And after that He went out and noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax office, and He said to him, “Follow Me.” ²⁸ And he left everything behind, and rose up and *began to follow* Him.

Mark 2:14 LSB

¹⁴ And as He passed by, He saw Levi the *son* of Alphaeus sitting in the tax office, and He said to him, “Follow Me!” And he stood up and followed Him.

He sold his home circle, and placed himself outside the fellowship of his loved ones, orthodox Jewish friends and acquaintances. He sold his country. His kinsmen writhed under the tyranny and oppression of Rome, and when he entered its service, the flame of pure patriotism he had known was quenched by a baser love. He sold his conscience for he knew that, generally, tax-collectors represented a most dishonest profession, a set of unscrupulous extortioners. Lust for money stifled the warning of the inner bell. ~ Herbert Lockyer

Matthew's Conversion

Matthew 9:9 LSB

⁹ And as Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax office; and He said to him, “Follow Me!” And he stood up and followed Him.

Luke 5:28 NASB95

And he left everything behind, and got up and *began to follow* Him.

Luke 19:2 LSB

² And behold, there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich.

Romans 6:17 LSB

¹⁷ But thanks be to God that *though* you were slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were given over,

Ephesians 2:1 LSB

¹ And you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

1 Peter 3:18 LSB

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, *the* righteous for *the* unrighteous, so that He might bring you to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

Acts 17:30 LSB

³⁰ “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now commanding men that everyone everywhere should repent,

Discussion Questions

Matthew had extensive knowledge of the Old Testament but still chose a life of sin and compromise. What does his story teach us about the difference between knowing truth intellectually and submitting to it personally?

Before his conversion, Matthew’s allegiance was to wealth and Rome rather than to God. In what ways can people today—even believers—be tempted to divide their allegiance between Christ and other masters?

[Luke 5:28](#) says Matthew “left everything behind” to follow Jesus. What do you think that decision would have looked like practically, emotionally, and spiritually for Matthew?

What are some things people today may need to “leave behind” in order to fully follow Christ? How have you personally experienced this tension?

Matthew was viewed as an outcast and traitor by his own people. How does Jesus' willingness to call Matthew encourage you in light of your own past failures or sins?

The sermon emphasized that Matthew's story reveals not just who he was, but who we all are apart from Christ. How does understanding your own spiritual condition before salvation deepen your appreciation for God's grace?

Jesus' command to Matthew was simple: "Follow Me." What does it mean in daily life—not just at conversion, but continually—to follow Christ?

Matthew likely gave up great wealth and security to follow Jesus. How does his example challenge modern assumptions about comfort, security, and success?

Why do you think Jesus often chose unlikely and imperfect people—like Matthew—to be His followers and representatives?

Matthew's life demonstrates that Christ doesn't merely improve people—He transforms their allegiance. How would you explain the difference between moral improvement and spiritual transformation?

In what ways does Matthew's transformation give you hope for people in your life who seem far from God?

The sermon said that Christ still stands before people through His Word and gives the same command: "Follow Me." How have you personally experienced Christ calling you to deeper obedience?

Matthew became a powerful instrument for God after his conversion, even though he had such a sinful past. How does God use a person's past—even sinful parts of it—for His glory?

What are some practical ways you can demonstrate that your allegiance truly belongs to Christ in your work, relationships, and priorities?

The sermon concluded with the question, “Will you follow Him?” What does answering that question look like in your life right now, and what specific steps might God be calling you to take?

The Gospel:

God

Created and owns everything

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalm 24:1](#)—*The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

Is Perfectly Holy

[1 John 1:5](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[Matt 5:48](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[James 2:10](#)—*for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

Man

Has broken God’s law

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—*there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[Rom. 6:23](#)—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

Demonstrated God’s love by dying on the cross to pay sin’s penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

[Luke 9:23](#)—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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Additional Quotes

We believe that men are saved by faith alone, but not by a faith which is alone. They are saved by faith without works, but not by a faith which is without works. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Faith is both God's gift and man's act. The Lord is the author of our faith, but we ourselves believe. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Faith is nothing but believing what God promises or says. Whatever remarkable thing we read of happening in the Old or New Testament, we read that it was done by faith—not by works, not by a general faith, but by faith directed to the matter in hand. ~ **Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation)**

In the divine scheme of salvation the doctrine of faith is central. God addresses His words to faith, and where no faith is no true revelation is possible, "*Without faith it is impossible to please him.*" ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Faith in the storm is true faith! Faith in a calm may be, or may not be, genuine faith. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The man that believes will obey; failure to obey is convincing proof that there is not true faith present. To attempt the impossible God must give faith or there will be none, and He gives faith to the obedient heart only. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

It is never our merit God looks at but our faith. If there is only one strand of faith amongst all the corruption within us, God will take hold of that one strand. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**

Our faith is never perfect ... we are partly unbelievers. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Faith says, "I cannot believe that he who has brought me so far is going to let me down at this point. It is impossible; it would be inconsistent with the character of God." ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Faith is the refusal to panic. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Faith always shows itself in the whole personality. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Faith is a living, restless thing. It cannot be inoperative. ~ **Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation)**

Faith that is sure of itself is not faith; faith that is sure of God is the only faith there is. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**

To trust God in matters of things unseen is not a matter of blind faith. It is not credulity. It is a reasonable faith. ~ **R. C. Sproul**

Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**

Faith in God is a terrific venture in the dark. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**

... faith is the gaze of a soul upon a saving God. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Faith cannot stand unless it be founded on the promises of God. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Faith brings a man empty to God, that he may be filled with the blessings of God. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Faith is the first step in understanding; understanding is the reward of faith. ~ **Saint Augustine of Hippo**

Faith takes God without any ifs. If God says anything, faith says, “I believe it;” faith says, “Amen” to it. ~ **Dwight Lyman Moody (Evangelist)**

It is not the strength of your faith that saves you, but the strength of Him upon whom you rely! Christ is able to save you if you come to Him—be your faith weak or be it strong. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are opposite sides of the same coin. ~ **A. W. Tozer**