

St Matthew | Tuesday 21 September 2021

Today is Tuesday the 21 September, the feast of St Matthew.

The Community of Taizé sing *Christe Lux Mundi*: 'O Christ, light of the world, whoever follows you will have the light of life.'

Today's reading is from the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.

Matthew, whose calling by Jesus has just been read to us, is a professional tax-collector, which meant that he would have been viewed with utter contempt by good religious people. How does it make you feel that a man like this was chosen to follow Jesus?

"He got up and followed him". What possible explanation can there be for Matthew's response to Jesus? If you were in Matthew's position, would you do the same, do you think?

Now listen once more as the passage is read for you, and ask yourself if Jesus has ever called you in this way.

Finally, imagine yourself talking to Matthew about this calling. Why not ask him how he feels about it now?

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Today is Tuesday the 21 September, the feast of St Matthew.

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