Mat #86

Matthew the friend of sinners.

SLIDE FOR CONFERENCE

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I want to cap off this series on OSN, God’s divine protocol for sin by tearing apart 1John chapter one a little before we hop back into Mat chapter 9.

Go to 1John chapter one.

This will be the icing on the cake for the 3 part series we just completed.

/Ephesus and Laodicea are the predominate areas in view in 1John chapter one. John was the head pastor over several churches and often he used letters as a form of teaching and staying in touch with churches. This was probably written around 95 AD. (WRITTEN TO BELIEVERS!)\

Gnostics (those with deep knowledge, the new age thinkers we would say today.) They had invaded the churches and new doctrines were being tossed around.

/Asceticism (self-denial) was one of the new belief systems another was that they could live in sinless perfection in fact one group taught they had the ability in their flesh to eradicate the OSN completely. This is the background as to what John is teaching….to BELIEVERS!\

It’s important to understand historical context first….Ephesus was a hot bed for Christianity at this point…thanks to pastors like Paul & John.

So this is not an evangelist message hoping to save Unbels…but it was designed to correct **Bels** who should know better!

By the way the Gnostics and Judaizer’s were the ones responsible for kicking off the many denominations we have today.

Pick it up in 1John 1:5;

1Jo 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

/1Jo 1:6 If we say that we have **fellowship with Him** and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

Only Bels have fellowship with God. Unbels are enemies of the Cross.\

Going into this section of 1John chapter one I want you to realize all these next verses with **IF** in the context are written in the Greek 3rd class condition….which is like saying maybe you will, maybe you won’t. In other words the outcome can go either way…it’s up to you!

REPEAT!!!!

1Jo 1:7 but **if we walk** in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Walking in the light is analogous to being filled with the HS…putting on the new man.

**If (3rd class)** you do so the light is available. Maybe you will… maybe you won’t…the Bel has a choice.

1Jo 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Notice how John is including all Bels…even himself in how he wrote this letter.

/1Jo 1:9 **If we confess** (*homologeō*) **our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness.\**

HOMO-LE –GETTO is an ancient term used in courtrooms. It had a judicial flavor too it so it may differ in how we see the word confess today.

It is to openly state something, to acknowledge or cite it as a fact…no emotions, but a plain statement of truth.

REPEAT!!!

/1Jo 1:10 **If we say that we have not sinned,** we make **Him (God) a liar** and His word is not in us.\

This points directly to those who claim to be Christians but live happily outside the plan of God….living a lifestyle deeply entrenched in sin never acknowledging a need to change or turn toward God. They may be Christians but they lack any spiritual discernment or knowledge.

You can-not tell them apart from the common Unbel on the street.

Having covered this subject clearly I welcome any questions about those last 3 lessons and the protocol for dealing with sin and let’s look at where we got started on this series.

Turn to Matthew chapter nine and let’s get back into.

/Mat 9:6 “But so that you may know that **the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”**—then He said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.”\

This speaks to Jesus Christ in His humanity and at the same time answers the question for those following Jesus as to who He is…He is GOD!

It is God and God only who has power to wash sin away.

/Psa 130:7 O Israel, hope in the LORD;  
For with the LORD there is lovingkindness, and **with Him is abundant redemption**. 8 And **He will redeem** Israel from **all his iniquities.\**

Mat 9:7 And he got up and went home.

Mat 9:8 But when the crowds saw *this,* they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Now in verse 9….Matthew is being called to Apostleship.

Mat 9:9 As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector’s booth; and He said to him, “Follow Me!” And he got up and followed Him.

/Mat 9:10 Then it happened that as **Jesus was reclining** at the table in the house, behold, **many tax collectors and sinners** came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples.\

Matthew immediately got up and followed the Lord and as you see the Lord quickly got comfortable with some of Matthews friends at a house party.

Let’s take a moment today to focus on Matthew.

While fishing was a respectable vocation, not all the occupations of the 12 disciples were viewed favorably.

When Jesus first called Matthew, the disciple was sitting at the tax collector’s booth.

/Matthew belonged to the class of Jewish tax collectors who extorted money from travelers. Publicans or tax collectors were despised, regarded as traitors to their own people. Their money was considered unclean and those taxed would avoid asking for change.\

Publican is a Latin term for a public servant or government worker.

A publican’s money could not be tithed to the temple. Publicans were forbidden to testify in court. A good Jew would not even associate with publicans in private life. Jesus upset the Pharisees when He enjoyed a meal at Matthew’s house.

We don’t know the extent of Matthew’s criminal connections but there is a high probability that Matthew shaved money off the top…perhaps he was involved in strong arm tactics to get taxes and used intimidation and criminal connections to gain profit on the side.

/*Hamartōlos-* **sinners** was a general term for people outside the law, wicked or criminal often used for prostitutes and in this case the women were probably prostitutes who dated tax collectors because it was lucrative for the ladies.\

HARM-OT-TOE-LOSS

This was probably a party at Matthew’s house where all the people involved were his friends and business associates so it was obvious by Matthew’s trade and his friends that he was comfortable in and around the criminal circles.

/Mat 9:10 Then it happened that as **Jesus was reclining** at the table in the house, behold, many **tax collectors** and **sinners** (*hamartōlos*) came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples.\

Notice Jesus was reclining…probably having a glass of wine and talking.

He was very comfortable with the whole group.

Remember Jesus got a reputation for hanging out with sinners and the legalistic crowd called Him a drunkard and gluttonous because TLJC sat and enjoyed good food and a glass of wine with the rowdy crowd.

/What many miss out on was that the Lord picked Matthew out of crowd because He sensed an open heart in Matthew. Matthew immediately offered Jesus hospitality at his home with his friends. Matthew felt joy and wanted to share the *good news* with friends.\

The good news being the living gospel of Jesus Christ, who had no problem accepting Matthew into His new group of future teachers.

TLJC didn’t care about his past in fact the Lord may have looked at that as an asset not a stumbling block.

/Matthew didn’t hesitate when the Lord called upon him and he realized his past was no longer an issue and Matthew wanted to encourage his friends to listen to Jesus, not hide them because he was ashamed.\

There is a strength in Matthew that often gets overlooked.

Matthew was accustom to hanging out with a rough crowd and probably said and did many things he was ashamed of…but he wasn’t judged by TLJC.

Matthew was accepted which freed him to become the man God designed him to be!

When you can truly feel forgiven and not be reminded of your past and you sense that you are truly loved and accepted it frees you like nothing else in the world.

/Jhn 8:36 “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.\

Matthew truly became a free man that day.

The misconception about the Apostles is that they were perfect men and that the Lord noticed them because they were so pure.

None of them were anything special except that TLJC could sense an open heart for truth and a teachable spirit in all of them and as for Judas Iscariot I believe TLJC saw potential but also knew that one deceiver would be in the crowd.

Free will is always the issue Royal Family.

/Jesus never got drunk and rowdy, there were never reports of inappropriate behavior but even the worst people felt comfortable around Him. Jesus broke bread and shared wine with sinners to let them open up and see what true grace and mercy looked like.\

Sadly all they knew was disdain and ridicule from the legalistic crowds.

Souls are not saved with guilt and shame and true forgiveness doesn’t rub your nose in the past…it completely forgets it! REPEAT!!!!

/Rom 8:1 Therefore there is now **no** **condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.\

Do you realize the bloodline of TLJC is filled with liars, criminals and weak individuals?

Why do you think the Bible records the worst and best moments of its hero’s… it is unique in that area.

/Matthew was a lost soul with an open heart toward truth and that is exactly what God was looking for concerning the men who would be used in completing His love letter to the human race. Sins, weakness and failure was not even on the radar…the past meant NOTHING!\

The Pharisees had men like Peter and Matthew and John within their periphery yet they would never even give them the time of day much less sit down and dine with them and get to know their true feelings…listen to their problems.

/Religion has a toolbox designed to FIX everyone. Inside the toolbox is guilt, shame, rules and rituals. Jesus doesn’t want to fix your flesh, He wants to give you a new life. He wants a love relationship with you…warts and all!\

All your imperfections and failures are exactly what He is looking for.

No one can FIX you my friends in fact we often fail at fixing ourselves. How about falling in love with TLJC and let Him do all the work. Let Him give you a new life to walk in?

/Matthew was ready, willing and open to the truth. He didn’t want to change it to fit his life, he didn’t want to cherry pick what he would and would not do, he simply gave himself over to the Lord!\

REPEAT!!!! ELABORATE

You’ll notice after this Matthew didn’t go back to the old job and continue in a party lifestyle day and night…Matthew began to change from within that eventually came out in his life.

/Matthew recognized what John the Baptist preached…the kingdom of God was upon them. And after the Cross of Christ the kingdom of God would go on in the souls of every Bel.\

Matthew went on to travel after TLJC ascended back to heaven and he ended up in and around Ethiopia preaching and teaching Christ crucified.

There is little known about him in later years and he was believed to have died in Ethiopia. Many scholars believe he died by the sword still proclaiming TLJC and because of that he was killed.

/Matthew was the complete opposite of a Scribe or Pharisee, he also didn’t fit the mold of a Jewish zealot who wanted to rebel against the Romans, he worked for them! Matthew found comfort and a career in the shadows of life until Christ shined the light on his soul and changed him from the inside out.\

Not with guilt or shame, truth was all Matthew needed once he realized it and saw it right in front of him…he accepted it.

Perhaps today you stumbled on this page and you can relate to Matthew…male or female it doesn’t matter.

Failure and sin plaguing you from years ago or just yesterday…it doesn’t matter, today you can become a new creature in Christ…believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved…God the HS is knocking right here right now….take that moment and believe TLJC is exactly who you know deep in your heart He says He is.