

The New System

Andy Danec Electric Car - It's an entirely new system. Entirely new way of thinking.

I. The Context

Matthew 9:9-14, Mark 2:14-18, Luke 5:27-33

Mark & Luke's accounts show a consistency that this occurred when Jesus called Matthew

Matthew's Calling Represents A Disruption to the Established System - Who Was Matthew?

Vs. 9. *"Jesus saw a man called Matthew sitting in the tax office, and He said to him "Follow Me."*

- Mark & Luke tell us Matthew's birth name was Levi, and son of Alphaeus
- Name Levi means *"coming together"*, Matthew means *"the gift of Yahweh"*

Matthew was called a *"Publican"* because tax-gatherers dealt with public money & public funds

The Tax System

- Romans auctioned the right to collect taxes in a certain area, region, or province.
- Whoever bought that right owed Rome.
- 3 Main Taxes Clearly Identified and Stated by Government
 - Ground tax 1/10 grain & 1/5 of fruit paid to government
 - Income tax 1% of income
 - Poll tax-tax paid by every male 14-65 & every female 12-65
 - These were established so it was hard to skim
- Other taxes were a little more wild west
 - 2 1/2 - 12 1/2 on imported & exported goods (importer exporter)
 - Transportation tolls, bridges, market places, highways, harbours, etc.
 - Tax on pack animals and carts based on wheels and axles
 - Tax on goods bought & sold
- These taxes collected by local individuals who volunteered
- This was an extremely lucrative position where publicans could line their own pockets.
- William Barclay writes this:
"Every country hates its tax-gatherers, but the hatred of the Jews for them was doubly violent. The Jews were fanatic nationalists. But what roused the Jews more than anything else was their religion conviction that God alone was king, and that to pay taxes to any mortal ruler was an infringement of God's rights and an insult to His majesty. By Jewish law a tax-gatherer was debarred from the synagogue; he was included with things and beasts that were considered unclean and forbidden in Leviticus 20:5; they were forbidden to be a witness in any case, and robbers, murderers, and tax-gatherers were classed together."
- Matthew likely worked for Herod Antipas collecting taxes
 - Most believe Matthew's office was located on main highway between Damascus & Jerusalem
 - His duty was to collect a toll from everyone passing through.
 - Matthew would have likely seen Jesus on many occasions and been aware of his teachings
 - On this particular day Jesus gave the command to *"Follow Me"*
 - Luke says Matthew dropped everything, left it all behind and became a disciple.

Matthew Throws A Big Reception - Literally "A Banquet"

- He invites all of his tax-gathering friends to his own home
- Luke says *"a great crowd of tax-gatherers reclining at the table"*
- Mark repeats the phrase *"there were many of them"*

Tax-Gatherers And Sinners

- All 3 Gospel writers specifically refer to this crowd as *"Tax-Gatherers & Sinners"*
- Remember the view of these people, the rejection from the synagogue?
- It is very clear that Jesus is in a space and with people that were hated.
- This would not have been normal behavior for a devout self respecting Jew.
- **Luke vs 30** says *"the Pharisees began to grumble when they saw this."*

Two Questions Directly Related to The Established System

Question #1 "Why Do You Eat With Tax-Gatherers & Sinners?"

- The System says they're no good. The System says they have no redeeming value.
- But you are associating yourself with them. - Why?

Question #2 "Why Do John the Baptist's Disciples & Pharisees Fast, But You Guys Don't"

- The System says that we are required to fast.
- The System says we are required to go without food.
- Lev. 16:29-34, Lev. 23:26-32, Num. 29:7-11 stated that Israel was to fast on the 10th Day of the 7th Month. This is Yom Kippur "Day of Atonement"
- This was the fast that God required of Israel once a year.
- It was designed to remind them of their sin.
- It was designed to remind them of their need for a Savior
- Law was given to foreshadow what Christ would come and do for us.

Other Reasons for Fasting

- Sometimes people fast as an expression of mourning or sadness.
- King David didn't eat while he was mourning his sons sickness.
- Sometimes Israel would fast to remember or memorialize an event.
- Jesus' Day, many zealous Jews fasted twice a week on Monday & Thursdays
- Last week we saw in Matthew 6 that one reason was to appear ultra holy and righteous.

So The Pharisees Essentially Have These Two Questions For Jesus In This Exchange

- Our Religious System Says That Sinners & Tax-Gatherers Are Unclean
Why Are You Associating with These People?
- Our Religious System Says That Righteous People Fast
Why Don't We See You Fasting?

Jesus Then Answers These Two Questions That Were Asked Of Him Around This Banquet

II. Jesus Answers These 2 Questions w/ Parables

Answer #1 About Fellowship With Tax-Gatherers & Sinners Parable of Doctor Vs. 12-13

- *"The healthy don't need a doctor, but the sick"*
- *"I came for sinners, not the righteous"*
- *"I desire compassion and not sacrifice."*
- In other words, if you have no need for a savior, I have nothing to offer you.
- Your system is only about the self righteous. My system is about those who now they're lost.
- Your system is only for the healthy people. My system is for those who need healing.

Answer #2 About Not Fasting Like John's Disciples & The Pharisees

Parable 1 - Attendants of the Bridegroom Vs. 15

- Weddings are a time of celebration.
- Why would wedding guests be mourning over the bride and groom when they are right there?
- Why would wedding guests fast?
- They're going to enjoy being with the bride and groom until its time for them to leave
- Jesus knows there will come a time when he will physically leave this Earth
- There will come a time when his disciples will mourn his absence
- Until then, why would they fast and mourn when they have Him?

Parable 2 - Unshrunk Patch on Clothing Vs. 16

- When you have a clothing item that you have worn out, it has been washed and washed and washed. It has shrunk as much as its going to shrink
- When it gets a tear, you would not put a piece of cloth that has not been shrunk
- To do this would create another tear or make the first worse
- What Jesus came to do and came to show humanity was not going to be able to patch their religious system
- The religious system was well established, it was old, it was heavily influenced by men
- Jesus didn't come as a repair patch. That wouldn't work to fix the system.

Parable 3 - New Wine In Old Wineskins Vs. 17

- Wine goes through a fermenting process as it ages.
- This is a very gassy process and will exert pressure on the vessels the wine is in.
- ANE cultures would store wine in animal skins.
- New wine still fermenting would be put in new animal skins that could still stretch.
- If new wine is put into old skins that had already been stretched to the max., then the wine would tear the old wineskin due to the pressure.
- Jesus is saying that this New Covenant won't fit into the old religious system.
- Even though He came as a fulfillment of the Old Testament Law, He cannot be contained within the confines and restrictions of the Law.
- Jesus doesn't fit into all the rules and traditions created by man.
- Those traditions don't fit into what He will eventually do on the cross and in the grave.

III. What Does The New System Look Like Today?

- **Galatians 3:1-5** “Why have you gone back to trying to keep the Law and traditions?”
 - Why have you gone back to believing that a person is saved by circumcision?
 - Vs. 2. Were you saved by faith or by works?
 - Do you believe that trying to keep the Law is now perfecting you?
- **Hebrews 10:1-14**
 - The Law was only a shadow of what Christ would come to do
 - The blood of bulls and goats could never fully take away sin.
 - Only Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross once and for all.
 - The old system was inadequate in its ability to completely atone for sin.
 - We have become sanctified through Christ’s blood, not the sacrifices of the priests.
- **I Corinthians 15:50-53**
 - There will be a new system in Heaven too
 - These bodies we have on this Earth will not work in the new kingdom.
 - God will not be putting a patch on these bodies.
 - God will not be trying to insert these bodies into a realm where they do not fit.
 - In other words, you can’t fit old bodies made for the old Earth into the New Heavens and the New Earth.

Maybe the Lord is working on your heart this morning because you’re holding onto your old system and He can’t fit in that.

Maybe He’s saying, “I came for those who needed a Savior, that was once you, and now I expect you to go to the lost too in My name”

Maybe He’s saying “I know you’re comfortable right now with your system, but I can’t fit into that system you’ve manufactured. I can’t put a patch on that and make it all better.”

Maybe the Lord is saying to you, “It’s time to do this my way.”