

Who is Matthew?

Matthew, whose name was Levi, was from the tribe of Levi. The priests and the keepers of the law. Jesus changed his name to Matthew "the gift of Yahweh!" He was a tax collector known as a publican. His office was located on the main highway that ran from Damascus down the Jordan valley to Capernaum, then Westward to Acre to join the coastal road to Egypt or southward to Jerusalem. His duty was to collect all or "toll" "transportation" taxes from both local merchants and Farmers carrying their goods to market as well as distant caravans passing through Galilee. He was fluent in Aramaic as well as Greek. He paid the Roman government to be able to collect the taxes. He was considered "unclean"

Matt 9:9-13) Matthew called:

Jesus said, "Follow Me" and he immediately got up and followed.

V.10) Matthew found something amazing and wanted to share it with all his fellow tax collectors and sinners...

V.11-13) Jesus came for the sick and lost "unclean" in the Pharisees (Jews) eyes.

Fasting, mentioned many times in the Old Testament and New Testament, to be done with reverence and for seeking the Lord.

V.14-15) tax collectors, sinners and disciples were in the presence of the Lord so they were not required to fast. Jesus was saying the time of fasting would come soon enough, in a couple of years.

V.16-17) old garments and new, old wineskins and new, old covenant and new covenant