

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

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PART 26: RAISING THE DEAD

SOME HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Matthew's birth name was Levi. He wrote a short account of his calling into the ministry with Mark and Luke providing more details.

The name Matthew is an English word that stems from Matthaëus in Latin, which is derived from Matthathias in Greek, which comes from Matiyahu in Hebrew. The name means "gift of Yahweh" and this means that anyone bearing this name can claim to be a gift from God.



Capernaum was an important city at the time of Jesus, serving as a Roman garrison and a magistrate city with a customs office. In order to fund their large standing army, the Romans imposed road taxes on all conquered nations. Major roads connecting larger cities had tax stations and everyone was forced to pay. The agent in charge of each station would examine the goods being transported, put a value on it, and the owner made payment.

Anyone traveling from one city to another had to pay a road tax for the privilege of walking on a road that was controlled and maintained by Rome.

The Romans used local Jews to collect taxes in Galilee and Judea. They were passionately hated and called publicans by the Jewish population. Rome set up a system that demanded the director of each toll station turn in a certain sum of what was collected, but he was free to increase the toll and pocket the extra money.

THE CALLING OF MATTHEW

Jesus continued teaching and healing after the miracle with the paralyzed man. When He left Capernaum and walked toward the shore of the Sea of Galilee, it brought Him to the custom station and its agent, Levi, the son of Alphaeus.

The New Testament does not reveal if Jesus had previously met Levi, but the publican certainly knew who the God-man was. There was no hesitation when Jesus called upon him. Levi resigned and then went home, where he put on a huge meal for Jesus, the disciples, other publicans, and sinners in general.

Matthew 9:9-10

(9) And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.



(10) And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

Mark 2:13-15

(13) And he went forth again by the sea side; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them.

(14) And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.

(15) And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.

Luke 5:27-29

(27) And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

(28) And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

(29) And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

The Pharisees, scribes, and the priests would never accept Jesus as the Messiah. His words irritated them and they constantly criticized His actions. It got to the point that they openly hated Him and plotted His murder.

Matthew 9:11

(11) And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

Mark 2:16

(16) And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?

Luke 5:30

(30) But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

Jesus openly rebuked their attitude and said the sick need a doctor. That was the reason the God-man was in attendance. Being self-righteous would do nothing for the souls of the lost.

Matthew 9:12-13

(12) But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

(13) But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Mark 2:17

(17) When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 5:31-32

(31) And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

(32) I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

FASTING

Jesus was always criticized regardless of the miracles and healings. One day some of John the Baptist's disciples complained that Jesus' disciples did not fast like they and the Pharisees.

Matthew 9:14

(14) Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?

Mark 2:18

(18) And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?

Luke 5:33

(33) And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

Jesus patiently clarified that the time would come. It was not necessary while the God-man was present with them.

Matthew 9:15-17

(15) And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

(16) No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

(17) Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

Mark 2:19-22

(19) And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

(20) But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

(21) No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.

(22) And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.

Luke 5:34-39

(34) And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

(35) But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

(36) And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

(37) And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.

(38) But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

(39) No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

RAISING OF THE DEAD

Reading the accounts of Jesus in the four gospels provides us with insight as to how stressful it was for the God-man. The Jewish leadership constantly sought ways to kill Jesus; there was constant criticism, the needs of the masses seeking help with infirmities, and crowds following Him wherever He went. There was precious little time to sleep and eat. Sometimes the Son of God walked away alone at night to pray and refresh.

Jairus was the ruler of the synagogue in Capernaum. He approached the God-man, but before he put in a request, he worshiped Jesus and gave Him honor as the Messiah. His only daughter had died and he wanted Jesus to resurrect her.¹

Matthew 9:18

(18) While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

Jesus must have been tired, but he and his disciples left the place they were at and started walking with Jairus to his house.

Matthew 9:19

(19) And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples.

Jesus knew there was a woman in the huge crowd who had been sick for twelve years with a bleeding that would not stop. She had been to many doctors and spent a lot of money but no one had been able to cure her. She had such faith in Jesus to the point that she didn't need Him to pray over her. She figured that just touching His garment would be enough to cure her.

Matthew 9:20-21

(20) And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:

¹ Matthew's account differs here with Mark and Luke. All three gospels agree that Jairus' daughter died, but Matthew diverges in stating that she was already dead when Jairus went to Jesus for help. Mark and Luke state that she died after Jesus was summoned and they were heading toward his home. The important thing here is that they all agree that she died; the timing is just different in the accounts.

(21) For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

Mark 5:25-28

(25) And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

(26) And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

(27) When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

(28) For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

Luke 8:43-44

(43) And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any,

(44) Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.

Jesus felt healing power leave His body and turned to the apostles, asking who had touched Him. They responded that it was impossible to know since the crowd was physically pressing on the God-man.

Mark 5:29-32

(29) And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

(30) And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

(31) And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

(32) And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

Luke 8:45-46

(45) And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

(46) And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.

When the woman realized that her action had not gone unnoticed and that Jesus knew she had been healed, she made herself known and worshiped him.

Mark 5:33-34

(33) But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

(34) And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Luke 8:47-48

(47) And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.

(48) And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

DOUBT AND UNBELIEF

The daughter of Jairus died while Jesus was busy with the woman with the blood issue. A group of men arrived and told Jairus that Jesus was not needed anymore since she had passed away.

Mark 5:35

(35) While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

Luke 8:49

(49) While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.

Jesus more or less told Jairus to relax and continue believing for a healing.

Mark 5:36

(36) As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

Luke 8:50

(50) But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.

THE MOURNING

By the time Jesus arrived at the home of Jairus, the funeral reception had already started. Professional mourners were hired to weep and loudly lament. This group created much noise as they moaned, groaned and cried. When Jesus told them to stop because the girl was just sleeping, they laughed at Jesus with scorn.

Matthew 9:23-24

(23) And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise,

(24) He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.

Mark 5:37-40

(37) And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

(38) And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

(39) And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

(40) And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

Luke 8:51-53

(51) And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.

(52) And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.

(53) And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

THE RESURRECTION

Jesus was not intimidated by the hired professional mourners who wanted to make money. Jesus told them to get out of the house and only allowed the parents, Peter, John and James to remain inside. When the God-man took her cold hand and told her to arise from the bed, she instantly came back to life!

Matthew 9:25-26

(25) But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.

(26) And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.

Mark 5:41-43

(41) And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

(42) And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

(43) And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

Luke 8:54-56

(54) And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.

(55) And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.

(56) And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

SUMMARY

There are three different events in this sermon:

1. The calling of Matthew into the ministry.
2. The healing of the woman.
3. The resurrection of the twelve-year-old girl.

I have repeatedly told you that Jesus has not changed over time. Do you believe this to be true?

Hebrews 13:8

(8) Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

I have also said that you are capable of doing the same miracles as Jesus and greater still. Do you believe the words of Jesus?

John 14:12-18

(12) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

(13) And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

(14) If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

(15) If ye love me, keep my commandments.

(16) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

(17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

(18) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

If you believe what Jesus said, will you accept His call to serve in the Kingdom of God?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?