Study on Matthew 9:1-13

\*Jesus got into the boat and went back across the lake to his own town, where some people brought to him a paralysed man, lying on a bed. **When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to paralysed man, “Courage, my son! Your sins are forgiven….**

**I will prove to you then, that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”. So he said to the paralysed man, “Get up, pick up your bed, and go home!”.**

**The man got up and went home. When the people saw it, they were afraid, and praised God for giving such authority to men** *(Matt. 9:1-7)).*

**\*Jesus left that place, and as he walked along, he saw a tax collector, named Matthew, sitting in his office. He said to Matthew, “Follow me”. Matthew got up and followed him.**

**While Jesus was having a meal in Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and other outcasts came and joined Jesus and his disciples at the table…** *(Matt. 9:9-10).*

**\*Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples**: **baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And will be with you always, to the end of the age** *(Matt. 28:18-20).*

DVD Spot: **Matthew DVD, *the visual Bible*** <https://youtu.be/woAhReBytBk?t=3529>

\*Matthew 9:1-13 *(58’ 23’’- 1:03’ 23”)*

Discussion Questions:

1) How have you handled this corona virus pandemic, with times of being shut in, and being separated from family and friends?

Has the corona virus pandemic reminded you of your mortality? What life questions has this pandemic focused your attention on?

2) Imagine that you are Levi, the tax collector. Talk about how you might feel listening to Jesus and watching his miracles.

Why do you think that Levi, *or Matthew as he was later called,* decided to “follow” Jesus?

3) What are your motives for doing God’s will in your life?

Think about the place the following motives play in your life: gratitude, compassion for the needy and the lost, obedience to God *and to your Lord.*

4) Matthew, it appears, had a passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus with others. *Read Matt. 9:10; 28:18.*

Do you have a similar passion?

5) How are you going to live out the rest of your life?

How are you going to use the time that God gives you?

Talk about your priorities for the rest of your life,

with regard to:

\*family \*church family

\*friends and acquaintances \*the world around us

\*neighbours

Quotes:

The following are quotes from Sunday’s message on the theme: “How God changes lives through Jesus”

**\*Well, the situation in Victoria reminds us that the corona virus is not that far away….** And that reality is that many, many people throughout the world are dying from this corona virus pandemic….

**All this, I think, focuses our attention on two key life questions:**

**\*Am I right with God?**

**\*How am I going to live out the time that God gives me for my life?**

**It is the second of these two questions that I want us to focus on this morning….** I want to look at this question with reference to the story of Matthew, whose whole life was changed by meeting Jesus, *just as your whole life and my whole life has been changed by meeting Jesus.*

**\*Matthew worked as a tax-collector in the town of Capernaum, a town on the northern most part of the shore of Lake Galilee.** And it was here that Jesus was beginning his ministry. Jesus has left his home town of Nazareth, and had begun his public ministry for God, his Father, in Capernaum. **I guess that prior to Jesus calling Matthew to follow him and to be his disciple, Matthew had many, many opportunities to see Jesus and to listen to him. The makers of the DVD of Matthew’s gospel rightly, I think, have Matthew in the crowd watching Jesus, as Jesus healed the paralytic.**

**\*So when Jesus said to Matthew, as he sat in his tax office, “Follow me”, Matthew got up and followed Jesus** *(Matt. 9:9).* **His action in doing this suggests that he believed Jesus, and that Jesus message had utterly changed that way that he viewed himself. If Jesus could be trusted, *and God had surely shown through Jesus’ miracles that he could be trusted,* then he wasn’t a ‘no-hoper’ in God’s sight. Rather, God loved him, forgave him as he cried out to God for forgiveness, and wanted him to live his life for Him. So Matthew “got up and followed” Jesus***.*

**\*And what’s the first thing Matthew now does? He invites Jesus to his home for a meal, and he invites other tax-collectors and sinners to join them** *(Matt. 9:10-11).*

**Why? Because he wanted them to meet Jesus and to hear Jesus.... Because he wanted them to know the same peace and joy that he now knew, *the peace and joy of being loved by God, and being forgiven by God.* He invites them to come and to meet Jesus, out of love and compassion for his only friends, *his fellow tax-collectors and others who were looked down on and despised as “sinners”.***

**\*Matthew’ life was utterly changed by meeting Jesus, and in the same way our whole life has been utterly changed by meeting Jesus, and by becoming aware of what he did for us on his cross.**

**\*And what’s *our* response to all that God has done for us? This is what I want us to focus on particularly this morning…. What’s *our* response to God wonderfully and amazingly changing our whole life, through Jesus? Gratitude? Yes.... We want to serve God *with every fibre of our being,* out of gratitude to Him for all that He has done for us, *and all that He continues to do for us.* But there are other motives for us serving God with our whole being, *our time, our talents, and our treasure*, as we live out our life, *however long that may be.* There is our desire to do what God wants, to be obedient to Him as His children….**

**And then there’s our love for others, our compassion for others….It seems to me that this is what motivated Matthew a lot: his desire to enable his friends and others to know the peace and the joy that he knew through Jesus, and to have “eternal life”.**