As Jesus passed by, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Matthew wanted to be free, something the Pharisees and scribes would not offer him. In their eyes, he was nothing more than trash...damaged and wasted goods. But in Jesus’ eyes, He was a child of God. Aware of Matthew’s reputation, Jesus called him anyway and his life was changed forever.
Food for your Journey

Someone confessed the problem he was having in getting people to forget his personal problems: "It's hard to bury your past when everybody's got a shovel."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, You sent Your Son to love me even though I have been anything but lovable. Jesus accepts me where I am but calls me forward...to change, to become the person You created me to be. With the help of Your Grace may I accept Jesus’ invitation and work hard to be a true disciple. Amen