

Mark 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

As he passed by he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at receipt of custom and said unto him Follow me. As passed by Jesus moving through Capernaum. He saw eiden active observation seeking. Levi Matthew tax collector. Son of Alphaeus family identification. Sitting at receipt of custom telōnion tax booth collection station. Custom duties tariffs on goods. Said legei present tense ongoing authority. Unto him directly personally. Follow me akolouthei same call to Peter Andrew James John. Tax collectors were despised as traitors collaborating with Rome. Jesus calls notorious sinner shocking religious sensibilities. Demonstrates grace reaches worst sinners. Levi immediate obedience abandoned lucrative position. Reformed theology emphasizes irresistible grace effectual calling. God chooses unlikely people for His purposes. Social outcasts included in kingdom.

Historical Context

Tax collectors bid for collection rights paid Rome then collected from people. System invited corruption extortion. Tax collectors considered traitors ceremonially unclean avoided by religious Jews. Levis booth likely on trade route through Capernaum. Lucrative position Levi wealthy enough to host large banquet. His immediate response abandoning wealth demonstrates power of Jesus call. Matthew later wrote first Gospel former tax collector became apostle and author. Demonstrates radical transformation possible through Christ. Early church welcomed converts from all backgrounds prostitutes tax collectors persecutors.

Paul formerly Pharisee who persecuted church became greatest missionary. Grace transforms worst sinners into greatest saints.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus calling despised tax collector teach about grace reaching unlikely people?
2. How does Levi immediate abandonment of wealth challenge contemporary reluctance to sacrifice for Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	παράγων	εἶδεν	Λευὶν	τὸν	τοῦ	Ἀλφαίου
And	as he passed by	he saw	Levi	G3588	G3588	the son of Alphaeus
G2532	G3855	G1492	G3018			G256

καθήμενον	ἐπὶ	τὸ	τελώνιον	καὶ	λέγει	αὐτῷ
sitting	at	G3588	the receipt of custom	And	said	him
G2521	G1909		G5058	G2532	G3004	G846

ἠκολούθησεν	μοι	καὶ	ἀναστὰς	ἠκολούθησεν	αὐτῷ
Follow	me	And	he arose	Follow	him
G190	G3427	G2532	G450	G190	G846

Additional Cross-References

Luke 6:15 (Parallel theme): Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,

