

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

ἵκολούθησεν μοι καὶ ἀναστὰς ἴκολούθησεν αὐτῷ
Follow me And he arose Follow G190 him G846
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,

