



Title: The Manifestation of the King (part 5) – More About Discipleship

Text: Matt. 9:9-17

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

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

Introduction:

1. Matthew's account coincides with Mark's account (Mk. 2:14) except Mark called him by his other name "Levi." Luke does the same as Mark and adds that Matthew was a "publican" (Lk. 5:27-28). Matthew was not ashamed of his testimony and past life-experience (Matt. 10:3).
2. A publican was a revenue collector for Rome and were despised by the Jews.

I. Matthew was Recruited by the Messiah (v.9)

A. Christ's simple command: "Follow me." – stop what you are doing and behave in accordance with me.

A.1. We can assume based upon going from the known to the unknown, that Matthew must have heard the Gospel, repented and believed on the Lord as Messiah, was baptized by John, and began to work as an honest publican.

A.2. The Lord Jesus called him and used him in his ministries. Matthew eventually became an apostle and a Gospel writer.

B. Matthew's simple response: "he arose, and followed him." – This will be our pattern and our glory – to be a disciple of Christ.

II. The Messiah was Questioned (vv.10-17)

A. The Pharisees asked about the Lord's "lack of separation." The Lord Jesus replies and refutes the Pharisees with Hosea 6:6 – God desires mercy vs. outward religious formalism.

B. The Disciples of John asked about the Lord's "lack of suffering (via fasting)."

B.1. No one fasts in the presence of the bridegroom (Ps. 45; Isa. 62:5; Hos. 2:20; the entire book of the Song of Solomon). John called Jesus the bridegroom (Jn. 3:29). We are not "Baptist briders" – the bride/groom metaphor is soteriological, not ecclesiastical (church).

B.2. The Lord hints at his passion and suffering with the phrase: "shall be taken" (removed) – the Lord will most certainly or definitely suffer violence at the hands of others. And when the Messiah is taken his disciples and indeed all of Israel shall mourn (and fast).

Conclusion:

1. The two parables of the cloth and wine illustrate that Christ intends to work with each disciple in bringing them to His desired end – that they would learn to adjust and glorify God.
2. The New Testament, Biblical Baptist church is the place of discipleship for today's dispensation.