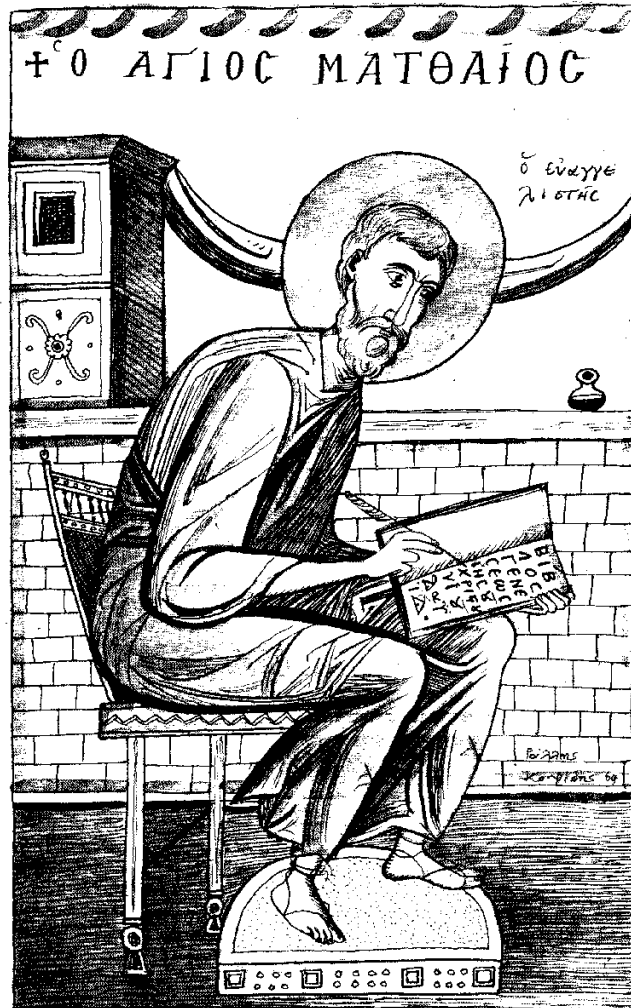


Jesus Invites Matthew to Follow Him

At that time,

Jesus saw a man sitting in his office. His name was Matthew. Jesus said to him, "Follow me."

Matthew got up and followed him. Jesus decided to eat at Matthew's house. Some people thought Matthew was not a good man. They wondered why Jesus ate with him. They asked, "Why does Jesus eat with sinners?" Jesus heard them and said, "I came to call those who do bad things, and sin, to change their ways."



Thinking About God's Word . . . Matthew 9:9-13

Whom did Jesus see sitting at his office?

Did the man do what Jesus told him to?

church and when we do what is right.

What did Jesus say to him?

We follow Jesus when we come to

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Sunday's Gospel
for Children

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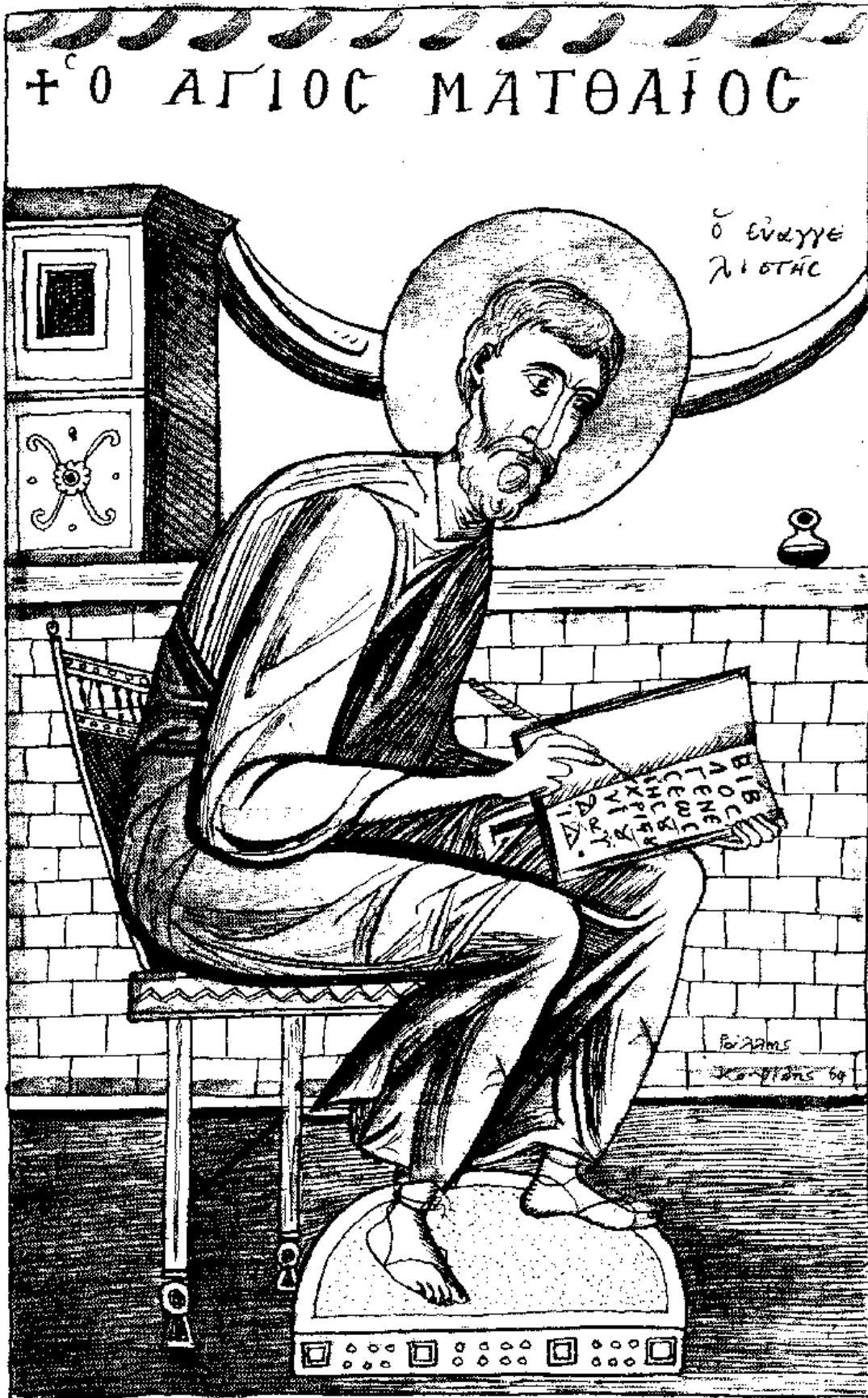
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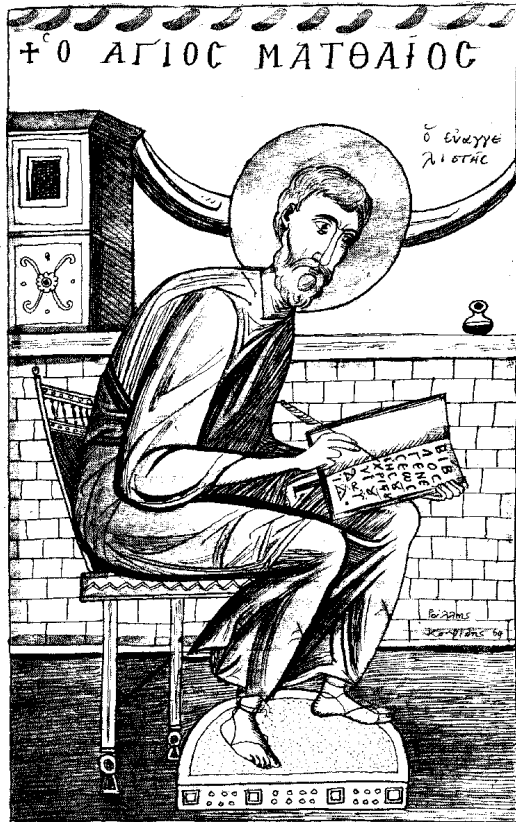
Next week

Love God More Than
Anything

Coloring page



Jesus Invites Matthew to Follow Him



One day,

our Lord Jesus Christ passed by a man. His name was Matthew. He was at work when Jesus passed him. His work was to get money from people to give to their country. Many people did not like the men who did this work, because sometimes the men took extra money for themselves.

But Jesus liked Matthew! He stopped to talk with him. He said, "Come, follow Me."

Matthew was surprised and happy that Jesus liked him. He got right up and left his work. He followed Jesus!

Later, when Jesus was eating, many others with the same job as Matthew came to eat with Jesus. Other people who had done bad things came too.

The Pharisees saw this. They thought it was bad for Jesus to be with such sinful people. They asked Jesus' disciples why He ate with bad people.

When Jesus heard what they had asked, He said, "It is sick people who need a doctor, not well people. God says it is better to show mercy to someone than to pretend to do what is right. I am like a doctor. I came to help people whose souls are sick with sin. I will show them that they can be forgiven by God and their souls can be well again."

Thinking About God's Word . . . Matthew 9:9-13

1. Jesus met a man. What was the man's name? What job did he do?
2. How did Jesus treat the man? Did he follow Jesus?
3. Who came to eat with Jesus?
4. Why didn't the Pharisees like to see Jesus eating with Matthew and the others like him?
5. Did you ever go to the doctor when you were sick? Did the doctor help you get well again? Our Lord Jesus is like a doctor for your soul. Pray, and ask Him to help you be healed of the sins that make your soul sick.

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Next week

Love God More Than
Anything

Jesus Invites Matthew to Follow Him

At that time,

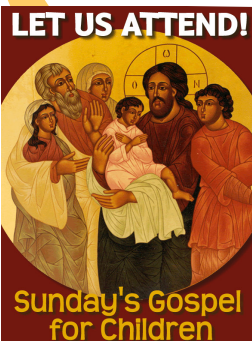
as Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as he sat at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."



Thinking About God's Word . . . *Matthew 9:9-13*

1. In the beginning of this Gospel passage, whom does Jesus invite to follow Him? Does he?
2. Who came to sit with Jesus and his disciples? Why do you think they came?
3. When the Pharisees notice this, what do they do? Why do you think it bothers them?
4. Jesus uses a metaphor of sick people, not healthy ones, needing physicians. What was He telling the Pharisees?
5. Jesus gives the Pharisees a homework assignment! He says, "Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.'" What do you think He meant by that? Ask your godparent or priest what it means.



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Love God More Than
Anything

Apostle and Evangelist Matthew
Matthew 9:9-13

Jesus Invites Matthew to Follow Him

At that time,

as Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as he sat at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."



Focus questions

1. What are taxes?
2. Why were tax collectors grouped with sinners? (See footnote in the Orthodox Study Bible)
3. In the last sentence, what does Jesus say was His reason for coming to be with us?
4. Now look at third sentence (begins with "But when...."). What role, or job does Jesus say is His?

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Next week: Fool!



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Jesus Invites Matthew To Follow Him

The Lord said,

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as he sat at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire

mercy, and not sacrifice.' righteous, but sinners to
For I came not to call the repentance."



Focus questions

1. Why were tax collectors grouped with sinners? (See footnote in the Orthodox Study Bible)
2. Two sentences give us insight into Jesus, and us. In the last sentence, why did Jesus come to be with us?
3. Now look at third sentence (begins with "But when..."). What role, or job, does Jesus say is His? Looking at the two sentences, what two words describe us?
4. How do you feel about Jesus statement, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance?"
5. What is mercy?

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Next week: Fool!



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