



# THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

## THIS WEEK AT THF

- ▶ **TUESDAY**  
THF College - Worship & Small Groups  
**7:00pm-9:00pm**
- ▶ **WEDNESDAY**  
THF Students - Worship & Small Groups  
**7:00pm-8:30pm ~ Doors open at 6:30pm**
- ▶ **THURSDAY**  
THF Men - Bible Study & Fellowship  
**6:30am-7:30am**

## UPCOMING AT THF

- ▶ **NOVEMBER 15-17**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT - Visit our Student Ministry page online to sign up.**
- ▶ **NOVEMBER 24**  
**LORD'S SUPPER**
- ▶ **NOVEMBER 28**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

**October 27, 2024**

Please continue to check all of our social media outlets and our website for updates to weekly activities and Sunday Services.  
[www.theheightsfellowship.org](http://www.theheightsfellowship.org)

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### October 20, 2024

*BUDGET GIVING:* \$14,174.00  
*BUDGET NEEDS:* \$18,919.00

### YEAR TO DATE

*BUDGET GIVING:* \$799,311.29  
*BUDGET NEEDS:* \$791,896.00



## THE MOST HATED MAN IN TOWN

*It took Jesus to see the Great Apostle in the Great Antagonist of Capernaum*

This disciple is very OBSCURE, yet we feel like we know him because THERE IS A GOSPEL BEARING HIS NAME

### Personal Data:

Name: **LEVI/MATTHEW**

Hometown: **UNKNOWN**

Known Address: **CAPERNAUM**

Family: Father (**Alphaeus** Mk 2:14); Possible siblings **James** or **Thomas**

LEVI WAS AN HONORABLE HEBREW NAME-FROM THE PATRIARCH WHOSE DESCENDANTS GIVEN PRIESTHOOD  
MATTHEW FROM HB:MATTITHIYA MEANING 'GOD HAS GIVEN'

NOTE - ENGLISH EQUIVALENT = THEODORE

The dominant descriptive of *Levi/Matthew* is that he was a TAX COLLECTOR

Matthew is the only disciple in the listing identified by his **PROFESSION**  
(And he does it to **HIMSELF** - 10:3)



## Matthew 9:9 - Matthew 10:3

Matthew was a HATED MAN

No class of men were more roundly hated in the ancient world than taxgatherers. The most vigorous haters were JEWS

- The Talmud said it was righteous to LIE TO/DECEIVE a taxgatherer
- They were commonly classed with **MURDERERS** and **ROBBERS**
- They were legally excluded a both WITNESSES and JUDGES
- They were generally barred from **WORSHIP**
- REPENTANCE was considered especially **DISTANT** from them

### Why So Hated?

They were agents of "The System" **ABJECT TRAITORS**  
 They literally BOUGHT the right to collect taxes **BOUGHT INTO THE SYSTEM**  
 They collected **DECREED** amount ... and could keep anything BEYOND it  
 They were the agents of systemic **ABUSE** and **CORRUPTION** **CF LK 3:12-13**

→ Matthew was a **mokhes** publican - that is, he was charged with collecting **DUTIES** and **TOLLS**

→ His base of operation was the crossroads at CAPERNAUM  
Matthew was ambitious, greedy, vile, unprincipled, selfish, ruthless, wealthy, powerful, and EMPTY

It took the inner Jesus to see the

### INNER APOSTLE

27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:27-28.

Matthew was a man of GREAT NEED v27

Matthew was a man of GREAT FAITH v28

- He had great ENERGY v28
- His faith came at a great **COST** v28
- He had MORE INVESTED in Jesus than most of the other disciples

Matthew was a man with a **deep passion** for SOULS vv 29-32

Matthew went from EXTORTIONIST to PHILANTHROPIST

*Matthew never speaks in the gospels...until he picks up his pen... then he spoke the gospel - powerfully!*



- Matthew wrote to **JEWS**
- He wrote to show them that Jesus was THEIR LEGITIMATE KING

Legend says that Matthew stayed in **Jerusalem** and **Judea** for almost 15 years before he ventured away.

## THF LIFE Notes

10-27-24

1. Matthew/Levi is a clear reminder that even the most disastrous life arc can be righted by the transforming power of the gospel. Share with your group the most dramatic transformation in your life after choosing to follow Christ.
2. If Jesus called you today to a new life direction, what thing(s) would you leave behind to follow Him? How would your life look different leaving these things behind?
3. Matthew picked up his pen and told a compelling story about Jesus. What would your story about Jesus sound like?
4. In Jerusalem during the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Matthew was a hated man because of his profession. What professions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century might we be tempted to evaluate as non-redemptive careers? Why is this? How does knowing about Matthew change your perspective?