

Worship Servants:

This week: 12/31/23

Next week: 1/7/24

Sermon:	Matt J	Sermon:	Matt J
Preside:	Danny D, James M Braxton, Sandy M	Preside:	John S, Dylan N Matt S, McCloud
Opening Prayer:	David H	Opening Prayer:	Danny D
Closing Prayer:	Doug M	Closing Prayer:	David H
Singing AM:	John S	Singing AM:	Doug M
Singing PM:	Prayer Service	Singing PM:	Bert S

Sermon Notes



Mercedes Drive
Church of Christ

December 31, 2023

VOL. 16 NO. 53

Welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY | January 2, 6:30pm
MDCOC Fellowship Hall
Held monthly on the first Tuesday.

SATURDAY SISTERS | TBD

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY |
January 9th, 6:00pm
Held monthly on the Second Tuesday.

TEENS IN THE WORD | 1/16 @ 7PM

MEN'S BREAKFAST | December 31 @ 7:45am
At the building.

SERVICE SCHEDULE DECEMBER 24th
9AM Bible Class
10AM Worship Service
1PM Worship Service

Service Times

Sunday:

Bible Class 9 AM
Worship 10 AM
Worship 6 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Class 6 PM

Elders

Danny Dailey 205-799-0917
David Harbin 205-292-3515

Deacons

John Sloan
James McDonald

Minister

Matt Jones 205-616-1165
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Check the bulletin in the foyer for more announcements and upcoming events.

“Matthew? Really?”

David Sproule

What’s the first book of the New Testament? You can name it, almost as automatically as you can name your own children. But wait! Think about this for a moment. The first book of God’s marvelous New Testament, where He is bringing His eternal plan to fruition, was written by a man named Matthew. Do you know who this is?

Matthew was a Jew, so it is not surprising that God would select a Jew to write this all-important book in revealing the unfolding of His plan. In fact, the second and third books of the New Testament call him by his more common name—Levi (Mark 2:14-15; Luke 5:27-29). But, here’s the deal. Matthew was a tax collector!

Tax collectors were despised! As ones who collected taxes for Rome, they were viewed by the Jews as traitors, oppressors and apostates, who were perpetuating the rule of a pagan power. Even more, they were considered to be dishonest scoundrels, as many of them demanded and collected more taxes than Rome required in order to enrich themselves. The animosity that was held toward these individuals is seen throughout the gospel accounts (Matt. 9:11; 11:19; Luke 18:11; 19:7). So, isn’t it intriguing that God would use a tax collector to write the first book of the New Testament?

Look at the passage where Matthew was called to be an apostle (Luke 5:27-32), and you will see why God chose to use such a man. When Jesus called Matthew to “Follow Me,” the very next statement says, “So he left all, rose up, and followed Him” (5:27-28). He immediately went after Jesus.

Matthew then invited Jesus into “his own house” and “gave Him a great feast” (5:29). How many others had done that with the Lord? Matthew apparently invited “a great number of tax collectors and others” to come and sit down with Jesus at this feast (5:29). He was trying to help others to see what he saw in Jesus.

Unfortunately, there were a host of critics who looked down on Matthew and his fellow tax collectors. Jesus was quick to answer them and remind them of that which should have been quite obvious—the Son of God came to call to Himself those who were spiritually “sick” (i.e., “sinners”), that they might have an opportunity to repent and be made right with Him (5:31-32). Matthew became the ideal disciple to write the book bridging the Old Testament and the New Testament.

We would do well to see people the way God sees them—not as the world sees them, not as their past life sees them, not as “those you like to pin everyone into some category” see them. Everyone needs Christ and needs an opportunity to be made right with Him!

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- Barbie Smith’s parents are in bad health Zeke (Dad) and Connie (Mom)
- Caroline Carlos, MIL of Bethany’s cousin, has had hospice called in.
- Jones family
- Edwards family with the loss of their sister Almarena
- 2 students at BHS lost their fathers recently
- Faye Caddell is having health struggles
- Wayne Worley, Harbin’s neighbor, is in need of prayers
- Donna Dailey is recovering from surgery
- Capri Day’s mother passed away, UPDATE. Capri is really struggling
- Ken Ramay and his recovery from procedure / spiritual struggles
- Todd Pierce, Jay and Kitty’s neighbor, having life struggles
- Kenzi Swindel has started her treatments, has had some victories lately
- Jimmy Bearden, West Blocton resident, diagnosed with lung cancer
- Wayne, brother in law of Kitty’s friend, having health struggles
- Reatha Griffin is having a lot of health issues.
- Joel Booth, member of Cicero family, has health struggles.
- Bekah Vining, West Blocton resident, has breast cancer. She is young.
- Yvonne Cicero’s great aunt Nell Tomlin is starting radiation for cancer.
- Bridgett Hobson friend of Juanita, her brain tumor is back. Treatment plan figured out
- SHANE ACRE’S DAD, Eddie, had his port put in for chemo
- Kyson Farley, Donna Dailey’s grandnephew, has kidney cancer and is on Chemo

ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 68

Worship P.M.37

Wed P.M.39

CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$1,815.00

BUDGET\$3,000.00

