

## Chapter Eight: Matthew and Thomas

- I. Matthew the Publican (Matt. 9:9)
- a. His Hebrew name was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. He is the author of the Gospel that bears his name. For that reason, we might expect to have a lot more \_\_\_\_\_ about this man and his character. However, in his Gospel, he only mentions his own name \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Matthew was a publican – or a \_\_\_\_\_ when Jesus called him.
  - d. Publicans were men who had bought tax franchises from the Roman \_\_\_\_\_ and then extorted money from the people of Israel to feed the Roman coffers and to pad their own \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. It is interesting to note that that the three tax collectors mentioned specifically in the Gospels all found forgiveness. They were \_\_\_\_\_ and the publican who “went to the temple to \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - f. We find the account of Matthew’s call in his own words in 9:9-13.

We know that Matthew wrote his Gospel with a Jewish audience in mind. Tradition says he ministered to the Jews both in Israel and abroad for many years before being martyred for his faith. There is no reliable record of how he was put to death, but the earliest traditions indicate he was burned at the stake. Thus this man who walked away from a lucrative career without ever giving it a second thought remained willing to give his all for Christ to the very end.

- II. Thomas – the Twin (John 11:16)
- a. According to this verse, his nickname amongst the other disciples was *Didymus* which means “\_\_\_\_\_.” However he has gotten another nickname during the centuries since then – “\_\_\_\_\_ Thomas.” While this is definitely unflattering and probably unfair, it does appear that he was a somewhat \_\_\_\_\_ or pessimistic person.
  - b. We can see this pessimism clearly in the first time he appears in John’s gospel (John 11:1-16).
  - c. However it is also clear that he was \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.

- d. We see these two things again in John 14:5. Thomas had become so attached to Jesus that he would have been glad to \_\_\_\_\_ with Him, but he could not think of \_\_\_\_\_ without Him. His worst fears were going to be realized – Jesus died and he didn't.
- e. We pick up the story of Thomas again in John 20:19. Jesus appeared to the disciples but Thomas wasn't there. He was probably off somewhere wallowing in his own \_\_\_\_\_. He always saw the worst in everything, and now his worst fears had been realized - Jesus was gone and Thomas was sure he would never see Him again.
- f. The others tried to share the joy of their experience with, but Thomas responded with the words that have earned him his unfortunate nickname (v. 25).
- g. When Jesus appeared 8 days later, He was amazingly \_\_\_\_\_ with Thomas. Then Thomas made what was probably the greatest statement ever to come from the lips of the apostles: "My \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_."

There is a considerable amount of ancient testimony that suggests Thomas carried the gospel as far as India. There is to this day a small hill near the airport in Chennai (Madras), India, where Thomas is said to have been buried. There are churches in South India, whose roots are traceable to the beginning of the church age, and tradition says they were founded under the ministry of Thomas. The strongest traditions say he was martyred for his faith by being run through with a spear – a fitting form of martyrdom for one whose faith came of age when he saw the spear mark in his Master's side and for one who longed to be reunited with his Lord.