

**Introducing Thomas, the Loving:** He is all called Didymus which means "Twin." Thomas and Matthew are listed together except in Acts 1:13. Thomas' loyalty is seen in John 11:16, desiring to go to Judea to heal Lazarus and possibly die because the Jews wanted to kill Jesus. Following Christ was worth his life. Thomas' love for Christ was demonstrated in that he wanted to be with Christ, John 14:5, Jesus told Thomas that He was the way to the Father, V6. John 20:24-25, Thomas not yet having seen the resurrected Christ wanted to touch His wounds. Jesus commanded Thomas to believe in Him (Jn. 20:27), Thomas declared Jesus as Lord and God.

- We are commanded to believe in Christ, to accept who He is as God and Savior. Rejection of that truth is an act of our will and leads to condemnation.
- Jn. 20:29, we are blessed having believed in Jesus, yet having not seen.
- The testimony of the Apostles has reached us and given us the words and truth of Christ.

**Introducing Matthew, the Humble:** Introduced in Matt. 9:9-13, Mk. 2:14-22, & Luke 5:27-39. He was a sinner when Jesus called him, Matt. 9:9. Luke says that Matthew left the desk where he was working and followed Christ. Jesus saw Matthew in his future state: regenerated, holy, and useful. Matthew's gospel was written first and traveled the world proclaiming that Christ had come to save Jew and Gentile.

- Matthew is an example of the sick and those in sin that Jesus came to save.

**The Humility of Matthew:** Matt. 9:10, Matthew had gathered many of his friends to meet Jesus in his home. He desired for them to hear Jesus preach to them. The Pharisees and Scribes questioned the disciples as to why Jesus was eating with tax collectors and sinners.

- Matthew defended his faith in Jesus and humbly is referred to as "Matthew the Tax Collector." Matthew showed to others the grace of Jesus in his life.
- Matthew provided the world with a genealogy of Jesus, and a history of the Savior, but didn't include his name as the author of the Gospel of Matthew.

**The Ministry of Matthew:** His gospel is the first book written for the church. In the mid-40s AD he traveled to Egypt, then to Ethiopia, and possibly established churches with the Eunuch of Acts 8. He would be assassinated, dying by the sword.

**The Ministry of Thomas the Loving:** After the counsel of Acts 15 in the mid-40s AD he went east toward Parthian (Iranian region) and Persia. He would travel to India and stay in southwestern India in Kerala for 7 years. He would establish churches and be killed in AD 72 by spear for not worshipping false Hindu gods.

- Wooden crosses were found as symbols at the churches Thomas established in India.

**What is Our Response to the Life of Thomas and Matthew:**

- The call of these men is the same for all men, Jesus commands us to follow Him.
- Mk. 8:34, Jesus commands us to take up our cross and follow Him.
- Matt. 16:25, Jesus commands us, as they were, to lose our lives in order to find it in Him.
- Rev. 2:10, Jesus commands us to endure testing and suffering and be faithful until death.
- Gal. 2:20, Jesus commands us to be crucified with Christ and be His slave and disciple.

### **Further Discussion and Application**

Thomas and Matthew were ordinary men called by Christ to be His disciples. What is required of a disciple of Christ? What is the cost? What is lost in this life? What is gained by leaving all to follow Christ? What can we learn from their example?

Matthew and Paul both were examples of the type of person Jesus will call and save. Who will God save? Who are those that find salvation in Christ? What humility will they demonstrate? What change in their lives will they experience? What will they put off to be a disciple of Christ? What sin and entanglements will be lay aside to follow Christ?

How can we demonstrate more love and service to the Lord Jesus as we mature in Christ? What does it mean to be "in Christ?" How close is this connection and communion that we share with Christ and His church? How should we see the "bride of Christ?" How should we serve Jesus' body?

What is "the faith" that we have received and would teach to others? Who is Jesus? Why did He have to die? Why did He die for sinners? Why is blood needed to atone for sin? Why did Jesus live a perfect, sinless life? What did His birth, life, death, and resurrection demonstrate to the world and to Satan? Why does Jesus coming as a baby prove His power and authority over all things?

Is there great joy in conquering sin? What is the joy we experience as we become more like Christ? Do we find that we need more things to satisfy us or less? What becomes more important to us as we grow closer to the Lord? As we have learned the Word of God, how has our faith grown? How is our faith more established because of what we have experienced?