

## **Matthew**

Tax collectors/publicans... why were they so despised?

Prostitutes ranked higher on the social scale

Office that one sought by putting a bid in with Herod's officials

Two levels of taxmen

- Chief: Zaccheus was one
- Regular: Matthew was this type

Regular tax collectors usually had offices at borders to collect taxes on goods

Named in all 4 listings of the 12 disciples (Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts)

His call: Matthew 9:9 (p. 1509) vs. Mark 2:13-14 (p. 1554)

“Matthew” vs. “Levi, son of Alphaeus”

James, son of Alphaeus – were they brothers? (Mark 3:18, p. 1556)

Why would Jesus call a tax collector?

Matthew 9:10-13 (p. 1509)

Author of the Gospel? Directed primarily at a Jewish audience

Traditions

- May have preached in Ethiopia and/or Persia
- No agreement on death story
  - Burned at the stake?
  - Stabbed to death?

## **Thomas**

Did he deserve being nicknamed “Doubting Thomas”?

What impression do you get of him with that title?

Also on all four lists of the 12

Stories involving Thomas confined to Gospel of John

John 11:1-16 (p. 1668)

What do we find out about Thomas in this passage?

John 14:1-5 (p. 1675)

What do we find out about Thomas in this passage?

John 20:24-29 (p. 1687)

- What do we find out about Thomas in this passage?
- Why would it be hard for Thomas to believe the others?
- “My Lord and my God!”
- Was Thomas different from the other disciples?
- Does Thomas get an undeserved reputation?
- Pope Gregory I (the Great): “Thomas’ lack of faith did more for our faith than did the faith of the disciples who believed.” (6<sup>th</sup> Century AD)

Last mention – John 21:1-2 (p. 1687)

A fisherman?

Traditions

- Associated with area in eastern Syria
- Also claimed by church in India as its founder
- Death by spear?
- India church believes he was buried in southwestern India