



THE CALL OF MATTHEW



Caravaggio, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Caravaggio's famous work, "The Calling of Saint Matthew" illustrates the passage in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 9:9), when Jesus invited the tax-collector, Matthew, to follow Him. According to the story Matthew rose and followed him. In the painting, Christ (on the right, behind Peter) points to Matthew, the tax-collector, (the bearded man wearing a beret) - and calls upon him to become the apostle Matthew.

As a tax-collector, how was Matthew used to be viewed / treated by the Jewish people?

What would have been different in the way Jesus looked at him?

How is the certainty / authority of Jesus conveyed in this painting?

How does Matthew seem to be responding to this message?

How does Caravaggio draw our attention to Matthew in this painting?

Look at his use of light / dark; hand gestures; guiding lines; facial expressions.

How do you respond to this painting?



Click here for an imaginative reflection on this scene:
<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Imagination/cp-matthew.html>