

Reflection Thursday Week 24 St Matthew Apostle 2023

St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, was born in Capernaum. He was working as a tax-collector when Jesus called him. He is thought by some scholars to have written an early version of his gospel in Aramaic, a precursor to the Greek version we now have. He is also said to have preached in the East.

Isn't it good to know what Paul says to us today that *each one of us has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it* to fulfil our mission of bringing the Good News to all those we encounter. Whatever, Jesus asks of us, whatever mission we have been given we have also been given the graces sufficient for the task, just like St Matthew. One minute he was a tax-collector and the next minute collecting people to become companion followers of Jesus, the Way. Pope Francis often says to us, we need to go out to the ones who are lost or left on the side of the road as well as those who are faithful.

From a Hymn to St Matthew:

At the entry to the city at Capernäum of old
the inspector, tax collector, counted out his Roman gold.
Holy Matthew saw the glory of Christ Jesus and his fame,
told the good news of His story: Lord, help us to do the same.
Public servant of the conqu'rors, from his fellow Jews estranged,
Matthew's duty held no beauty, till that day his life was changed.
As he sat, receiving custom, came that man of Galilee,
soft, demanding, firm, commanding "Matthew, rise and follow me"
Matthew answered, unresisting to that sweet compelling voice.
Marvelled greatly – sinner lately, yet the Master's blessèd choice!
So Saint Matthew walked with Jesus, sharing meat and drink and prayer.
Saw His Passion: in his fashion shared his Master's suff'ring there.
And for us who came thereafter, Matthew saw the tale was told,
so the story of Christ's glory shall not fade, nor yet grow old.