

# STUCK?



**“Follow me,” says Jesus to Matthew sitting at his tax booth.**

Suppose Matthew says....

*“Lord, I can’t come right now. I have some business to wrap up.”*

Or... *“Give me a month to think it over!”*

Or... *“Lord, I’m honored that you think me worthy, but I have obligations.”*

Actually, Matthew doesn’t say a word.

**He just gets up and follows.**

The first thing Matthew does is throw a feast to celebrate his calling.

Tax collectors and sinners from all over town come to rejoice with Matthew and wish him well.

Matthew never looks back!

So when Jesus comes by and says, “Follow me!” why are we stuck in our “tax booth”

We don’t mind going to church.

We actually enjoy Bible studies.

But to go all the way? To turn over our life? To burn our bridges like Matthew did?

**That’s too much!**



Maybe Matthew was tired of tax-collecting.  
Maybe he was ready for a career change.  
Maybe he had nothing to lose.

**Me? I'm happy to be stuck where I am.  
I'm saved and satisfied.**

Matthew and the rest of you "discipleship freaks" can take that radical road.



**But, I've got a life to live!**

So who said there are two types of Christians?

*Normal Christians.*

*Discipleship Christians.*

If Jesus says, "Follow me," we leave our "tax booth" and follow.

**If we stay in our "tax booth" are we saved? Or are we stuck?**



***"For whoever would save his life will lose it,  
and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.  
For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?  
Or what shall a man give in return for his life?"***

*Matthew 16*

*Prayer: Lord forgive us for being stuck, for holding back. Help us be dissatisfied with being stuck. Help us to embrace a radical discipleship because you are worthy, so worthy of us going all the way. The lives, things, and time we lose are nothing compared to the lives we will gain. They are nothing compared to the joy we will find as we follow you...all the way. Amen.*

*Maranatha Mirror*

*Message: Richard E. Bieber 2021*

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