

# SAINT MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 21

PATRON SAINT OF: ACCOUNTANTS, BANKERS AND TAX COLLECTORS

## *Origins of Saint Matthew*

SAINT MATTHEW, SON OF ALPHEUS, WAS LIKELY BORN IN GALILEE. WHEN CHRIST CALLED HIM TO JOIN THE APOSTLES, HE WAS WORKING AS A TAX COLLECTOR IN CAPERNAUM, A FISHING VILLAGE ON THE SEA OF GALILEE. TAX COLLECTORS WERE HATED BY THE PEOPLE AND OFTEN VIEWED AS CORRUPT AND UNTRUSTWORTHY.



A COMMON SYMBOL OF MATTHEW IS 3 MONEY PURSES, CALLING TO MIND HIS TIME AS A TAX COLLECTOR.

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MATTHEW COMES FROM THE GREEK 'MATTHAIOS,' MEANING GIFT OF GOD. MATTHEW'S HEBREW NAME WAS LEVI.

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## *A Divine Calling*

"AS JESUS PASSED ON FROM THERE, HE SAW A MAN NAMED MATTHEW SITTING AT THE CUSTOMS POST. HE SAID TO HIM, 'FOLLOW ME.' AND HE GOT UP AND FOLLOWED HIM" (MATTHEW 9:9). AFTER ANSWERING THE CALL BE AN APOSTLE, MATTHEW OFFERED JESUS AND HIS FOLLOWERS DINNER, DURING WHICH JESUS WAS RIDICULED BY THE PHARISEES FOR EATING WITH TAX COLLECTORS AND SINNERS. JESUS SAID, "I DID NOT COME TO CALL THE RIGHTEOUS BUT SINNERS" (MATTHEW 9:13).



## *Biblical Contribution*

SAINT MATTHEW IS ONE OF THE FOUR EVANGELISTS. HE RECORDED HIS GOSPEL ACCOUNT IN ARAMAIC AROUND THE YEAR 65 A.D. WITH THE GOAL OF EVANGELIZING THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

## *After the Ascension*

MATTHEW PREACHED THE MESSAGE OF JESUS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THEN TRAVELED TO ETHIOPIA, WHERE IT IS COMMONLY BELIEVED HE WAS MARTYRED. HIS TOMB AND RELICS ARE LOCATED IN THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW IN SALERNO, ITALY.

