

May 20, 2020

Upper Room- Matthew

The next one to tell his story was Matthew. He looked at the older woman and said that he had met her son while playing his trade as a tax collector. It didn't faze her in the least and so he continued. He talked of how he was tired of feeling the scorn and outrage of his fellow citizens. He wanted to get out, but it seemed so hard for him to let go. Back he went each day, collecting the taxes and feeling the scorn and hatred of his own people.

One day as he worked, a stranger walked up to his table, smiled at him and invited him to follow him. In the craziest decision he had made in his life to that point, he got up and told the assistant to take over. He got up and followed him and had been following him since that time. It wasn't easy, especially in the beginning because he was still seen as the tax collector. He was viewed with suspicion by the others. He tried to fit in, but it was difficult at times. He was a tax collector. They were all fishermen. They were used to the water. He got seasick looking at the Sea of Galilee. He hated the boat trips. Once or twice storms blew up and tax collecting looked good again.

Slowly, the animosity toward him lessened. He was one of the groups. He looked at the older woman and said that her son had given him a chance to change his life and while he had his stumbles and setbacks, he now had direction and he would continue to follow it.

Have you ever felt the great need to change the direction of your life?

Who guided you into a new direction?

Have you felt uneasy and I unaccepted in a new community? Who got you through that?

Fr. Marty