

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

“Offended by Others”

²⁷ Later, as Jesus left **the town**, he saw a tax collector named Levi [Matthew] sitting at his **tax collector's booth**. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. **Luke 5:27 (NLT)**

MATTHEW SACRIFICED EVERYTHING HE LOVED FOR A PRICE.

²⁸ So Levi got up, **left everything**, and **followed him**. ²⁹ Later, Levi [Matthew] held a banquet **in his home** with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi's **fellow tax collectors** and other guests also ate with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus' disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with such scum? [tax collectors and sinners]” ³¹ Jesus answered them, “Healthy people don't need a doctor—**sick people do**. ³² I have come to call not those **who think** they are righteous, but those **who know** they are sinners and need to repent.” **Luke 5:28-32 (NLT)**

JESUS SACRIFICED EVERYTHING FOR MATTHEW OUT OF LOVE.

MATTHEW SACRIFICES EVERYTHING AGAIN - THIS TIME OUT OF LOVE FOR JESUS.

⁴⁵ “...the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ **When he found one of great value**, he went away and **sold everything he had and bought it**. **Matthew 13:45-46 (NIV)**

- 1. THERE IS NO MISTAKE TOO BIG FOR GOD TO FORGIVE.**
- 2. THERE IS NO LIFE TOO FAR GONE FOR GOD TO REDEEM.**
- 3. AND NO MATTER THE COST, JESUS IS WORTH THE PRICE.**