

## Freedom Writers Part 1: Matthew

(Acts 4:13 NASB) Now as they observed... Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men.

### Untrained - idiōtēs in the Greek

(Acts 4:13 NASB) Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

(Romans 15:4 NIV) For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

## Matthew

(Matthew 9:9-13 NLT) As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum? When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

### Matthew: Even the despised are desired by God.

(Matthew 5:3 NLT) "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

(Matthew 5:4 NLT) God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

(Matthew 5:5 ESV) Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

(Matthew 5:6 NLT) God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

(Matthew 5:7 NLT) God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

(Matthew 5:8 NLT) God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

*(Matthew 5:9 ESV) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

*(Matthew 5:10 NLT) God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

## **Desiring To Be Like God**

*(Matthew 12:7-21 NLT) "But you would not have condemned my innocent disciples if you knew the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For the Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath!" Then Jesus went over to their synagogue, where he noticed a man with a deformed hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Does the law permit a person to work by healing on the Sabbath?" (They were hoping he would say yes, so they could bring charges against him.) And he answered, "If you had a sheep that fell into a well on the Sabbath, wouldn't you work to pull it out? Of course you would. And how much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Yes, the law permits a person to do good on the Sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored, just like the other one! Then the Pharisees called a meeting to plot how to kill Jesus. But Jesus knew what they were planning. So he left that area, and many people followed him. He healed all the sick among them, but he warned them not to reveal who he was. This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah concerning him: "Look at my Servant, whom I have chosen. He is my Beloved, who pleases me. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not fight or shout or raise his voice in public. He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. Finally he will cause justice to be victorious. And his name will be the hope of all the world."*

**1. We speak the truth.**

**2. We are stuck in the middle.**

**3. We focus on the most vulnerable.**

**4. We carry hope to the world.**

*(Matthew 11:28-30 NLT) "Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."*