

## **The Place of the Gentiles in the Kingdom**

### **(Matthew 5-7)**

#### **Peter's Vision and Cornelius the Centurion: Acts 10:15**

"What God has made clean, you must not call profane."

#### **Jesus' Command to Love Enemies: Matthew 5:43-45**

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven;"

#### **Jesus and the Centurion at Capernaum: Matthew 8:10-12**

When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

#### **The "Training Mission" for the Twelve Disciples: Matthew 10:5-6**

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

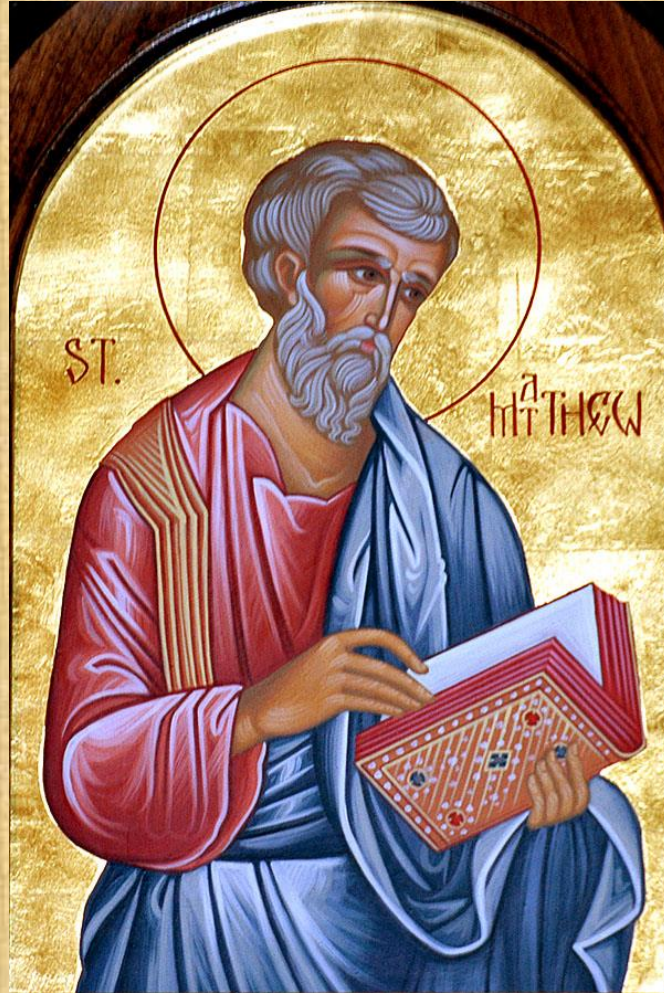
#### **Jesus and the Canaanite Woman: Matthew 15:24-28**

[Jesus] answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

#### **The Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20**

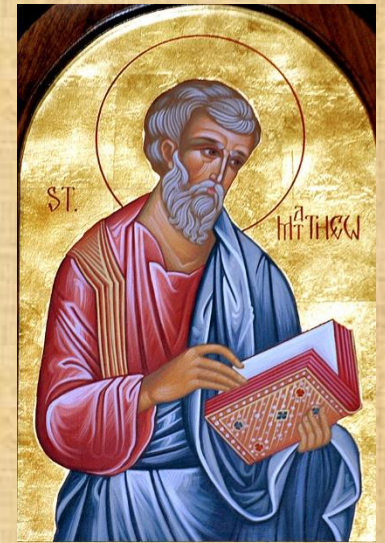
"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

# Living in God's Coming Kingdom



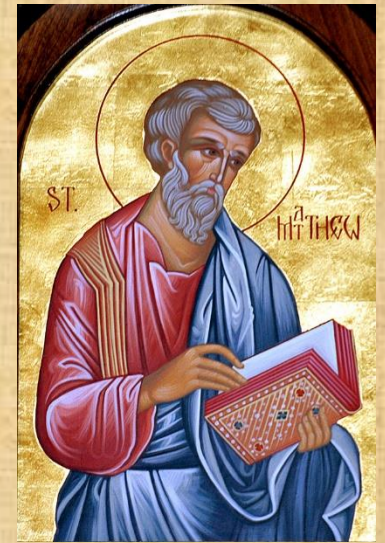
## Main Themes in Matthew

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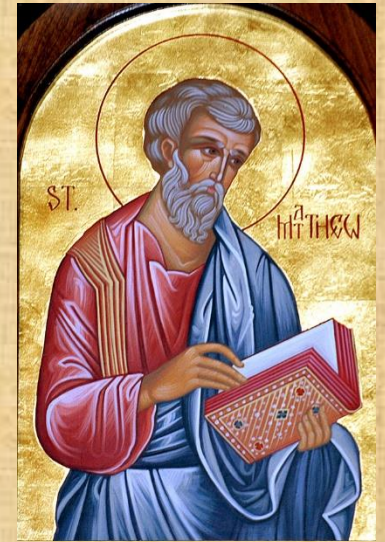
1. Embracing Jesus as Messiah
2. Seeking the Kingdom of Heaven
3. Following Jesus
4. Welcoming All

# Peter's Vision of the Clean and Unclean Animals



Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.” (Acts 10:34-36)

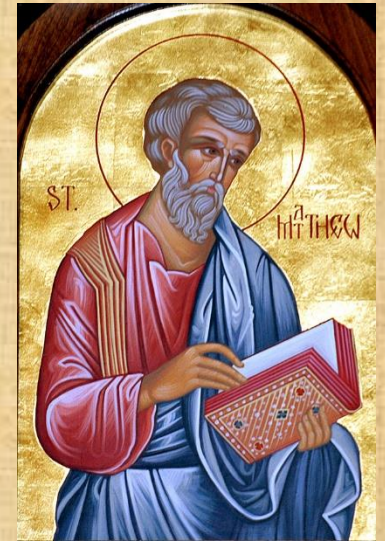
# Love Your Enemies!



“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good...”

(Matt. 5:43-45)

# Jesus and the Centurion



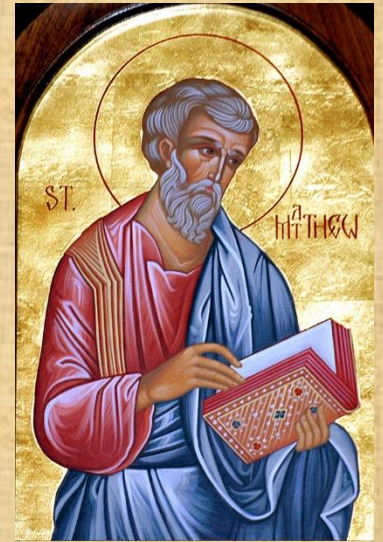
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(Matt. 8:10-12)

# Apostle Paul's First Missionary Journey 44 - 46 A.D.



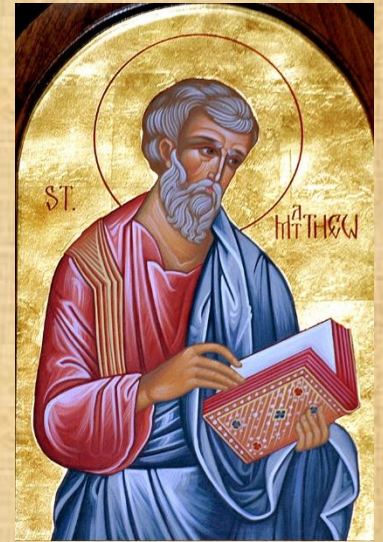
# Two Stages in the Proclamation of the Kingdom



- Jesus' earthly mission to the Jews
- The disciples go to all nations



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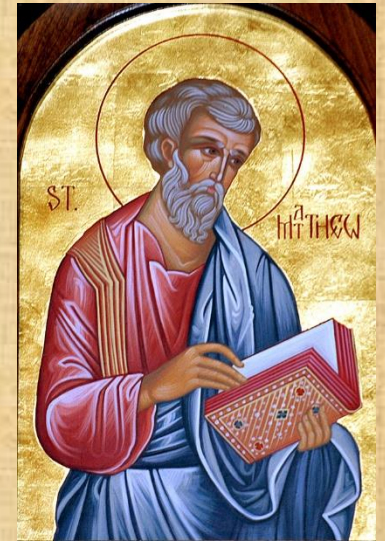


→ Jesus' earthly mission to the Jews

“I was sent only to the lost  
sheep of the house of Israel.”

(Matthew 15:24)

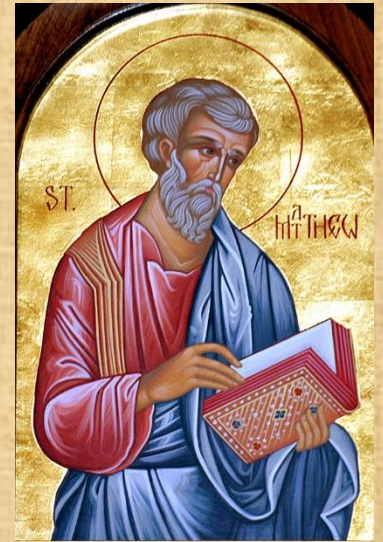
# The Canaanite Woman



But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”

(Matthew 15:25-28)

# Two Stages in the Proclamation of the Kingdom

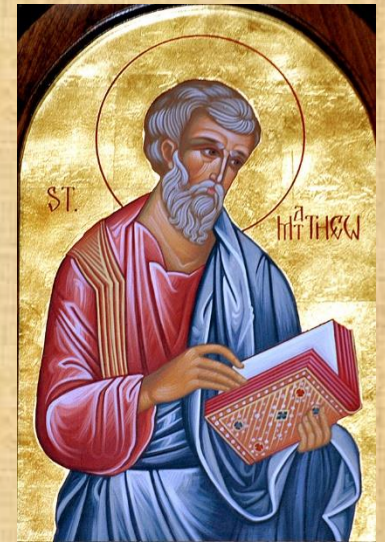


→ The disciples go to all nations

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

(Matthew 28:19)

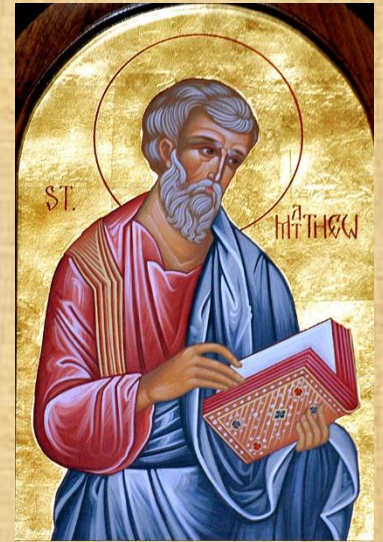
# The Message in a Hymn!



*1. In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.*

*3. Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.*

# Matthew's Emphasis on “Welcoming All”



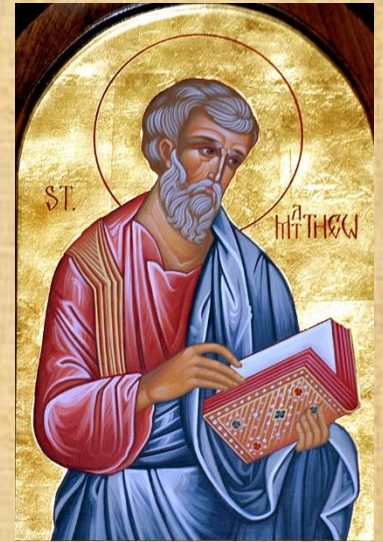
→ Gentiles (foreigners)

→ Children

“Let the little children come to me,  
and do not stop them; for it is to such  
as these that the kingdom of heaven  
belongs.”

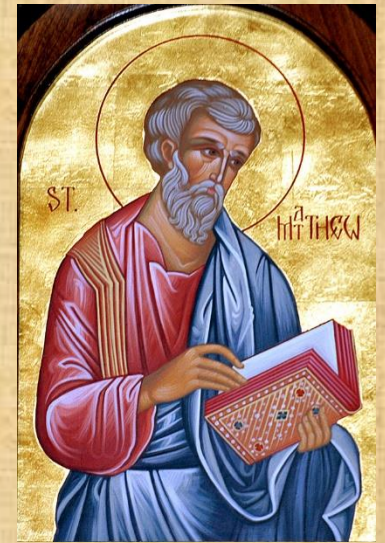
(Matthew 19:14)

# Matthew's Emphasis on “Welcoming All”



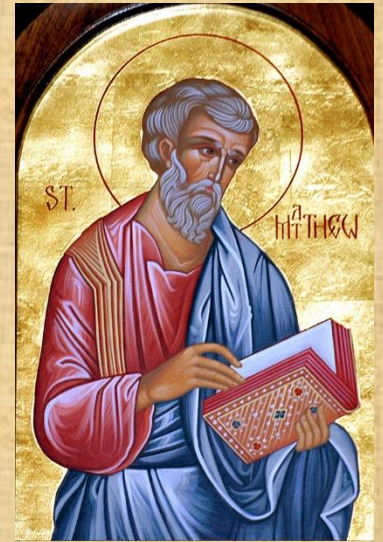
- Gentiles (foreigners)
- Children
- Women

# A “Wider Group” of Disciples



Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. (Matt. 27:55-56)

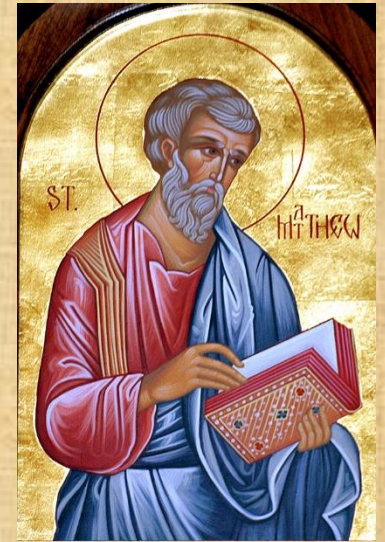
# Matthew's Emphasis on “Welcoming All”



- Gentiles (foreigners)
- Children
- Women
- Vulnerable Members of Society



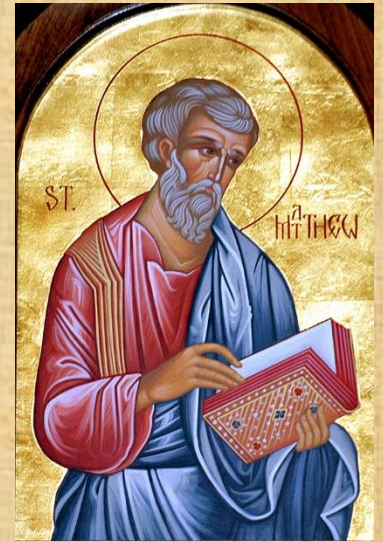
# The Vulnerable: Tax Collectors and Sinners



The Pharisees...said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’”

(Matthew 9:11-13)

# The Vulnerable: Those in Need

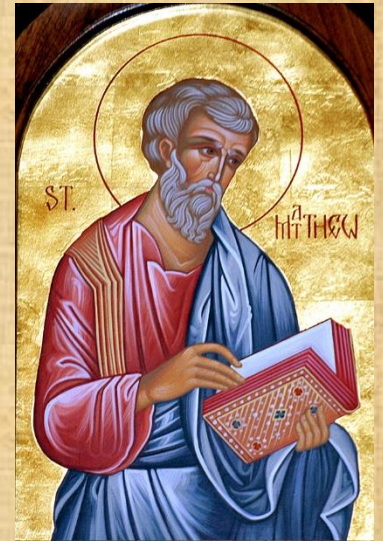


“Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

(Matthew 10:42)

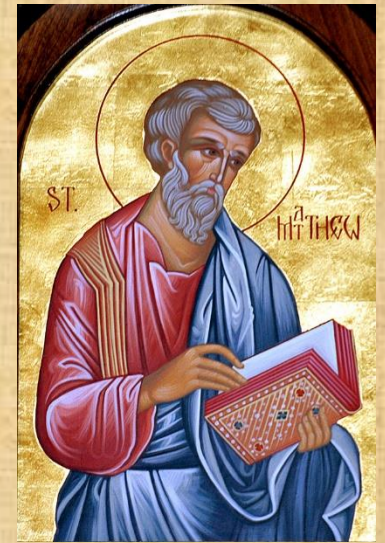
# The Vulnerable and the...

## “Sheep and Goats”



“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” (Matt. 25:34-36)

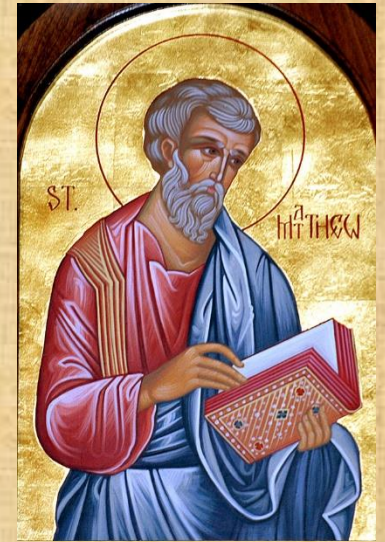
# The “Family” of Jesus



Someone told him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside.” But Jesus replied, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” And pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

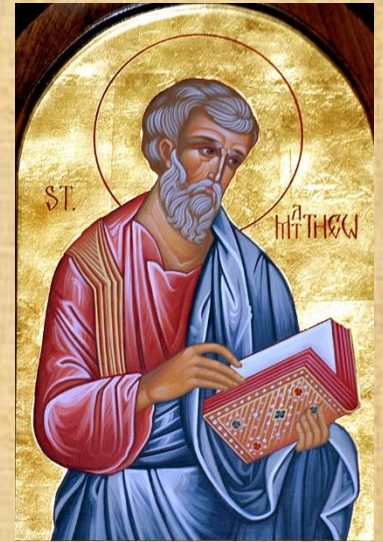
(Matthew 12:46-50)

# Some Implications of Welcoming All



- *Seek to eliminate friction and disunity in our congregations and denominations*

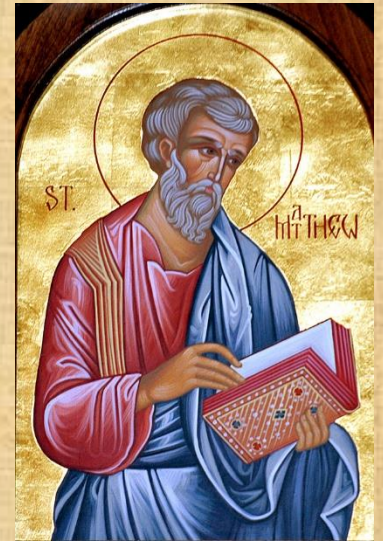
# Some Implications of Welcoming All



- *Seek to eliminate friction and disunity in our congregations and denominations*
- *Welcome foreigners*

# Vulnerable Foreigners:

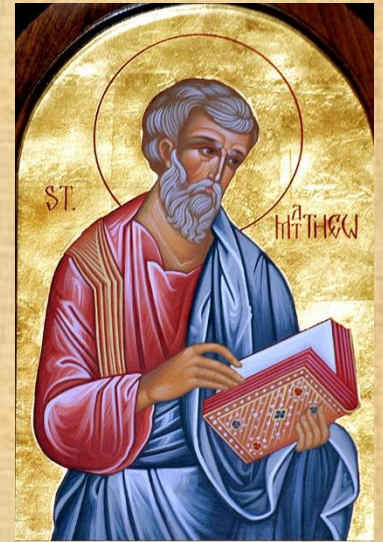
## The Old Testament (1)



When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field...You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 17:9-10)

# Vulnerable Foreigners:

## The Old Testament (2)

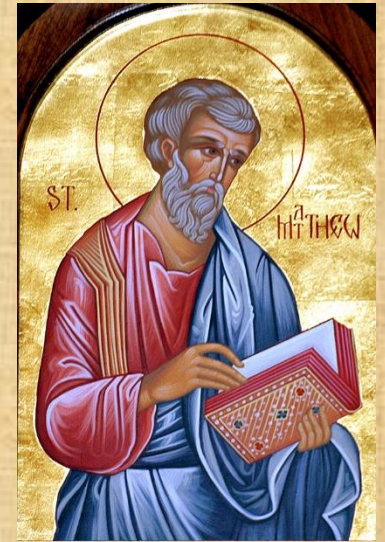


When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress him. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

(Leviticus 17:33-34)



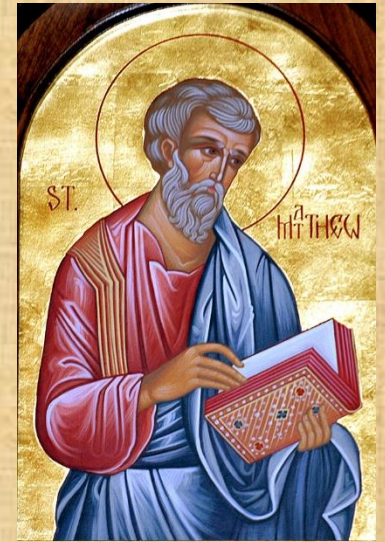
# Some Implications of Welcoming All



- *Seek to eliminate friction and disunity in our congregations and denominations*
- *Welcome foreigners*
- *Respect all religious groups*

# Jesus the Messiah...

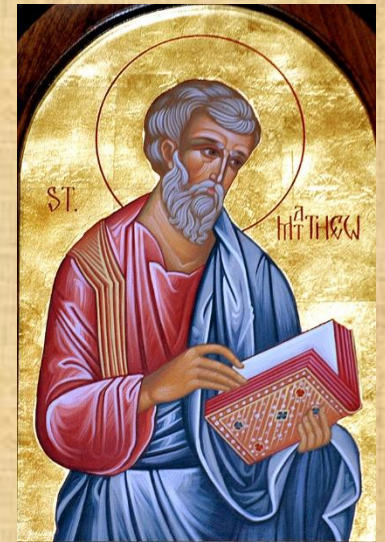
## a Servant!



“Whoever wishes to be first among you must be your servant; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

(Matthew 20:28)

# A Closing Prayer



“Alpha and Omega, your reign among us has begun. Let our life here be a reflection of your glorious kingdom, and bring us all together to everlasting life with you, Creator, Savior and Spirit. Amen.”

*(Work of God, Sat. evening vespers, week 2)*