



Jesus Calls Levi To Be A Disciple by William Hole

The Old/New Contract (Mark 2:13-22)



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(Mark 2:13-22)**

Introduction

The “Old/New Contract” in academic writing

The “Old/New Contract”: Composition Studies

- **Jumbled Details:**
- Clara drives our 2005 Buick Century since she currently has two years left in medical school. When she starts her student teaching, Laura will then be driving the same car.

- **Old/New Contract:**
- Since Clara is currently in medical school, for the next two years she will be driving our **2005 Buick Century**. **This same car** will then be driven by Laura when she does her student teaching.

Questions to Consider

- What of our old selves should we keep?
- What of our old selves should we get rid of?
- What part of our old selves will influence us regardless of what we decide?
- How does God use our old selves, our new selves, and our “blended” selves to achieve His purposes?
- How does all of this contribute to our growth as disciples of Christ?

Today's Passage: Mark 2:13-22

- ¹³ He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.
- ¹⁵ And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ And the scribes of^[a] the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat^[b] with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Today's Passage: Mark 2:13-22

- ¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁹ And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. ²¹ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

Let Us Pray



I. Money: Refocusing Priorities (vv. 13-14)

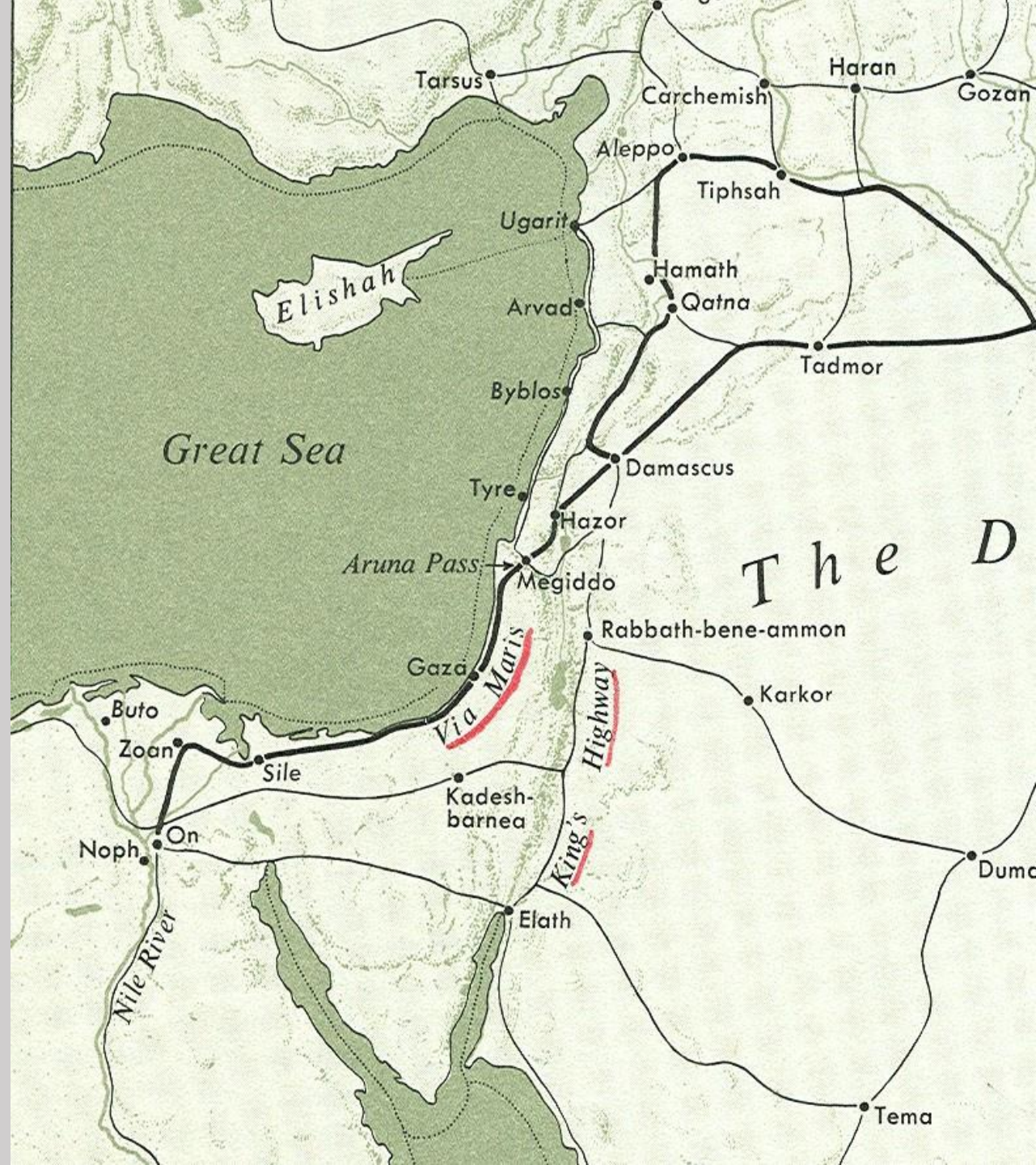
- A. Jesus as rabbi: teaches the kingdom of God
- B. Levi as tax collector: maximizes profits
- C. Trade routes: the Via Maris
- D. No prerequisites to be a disciple

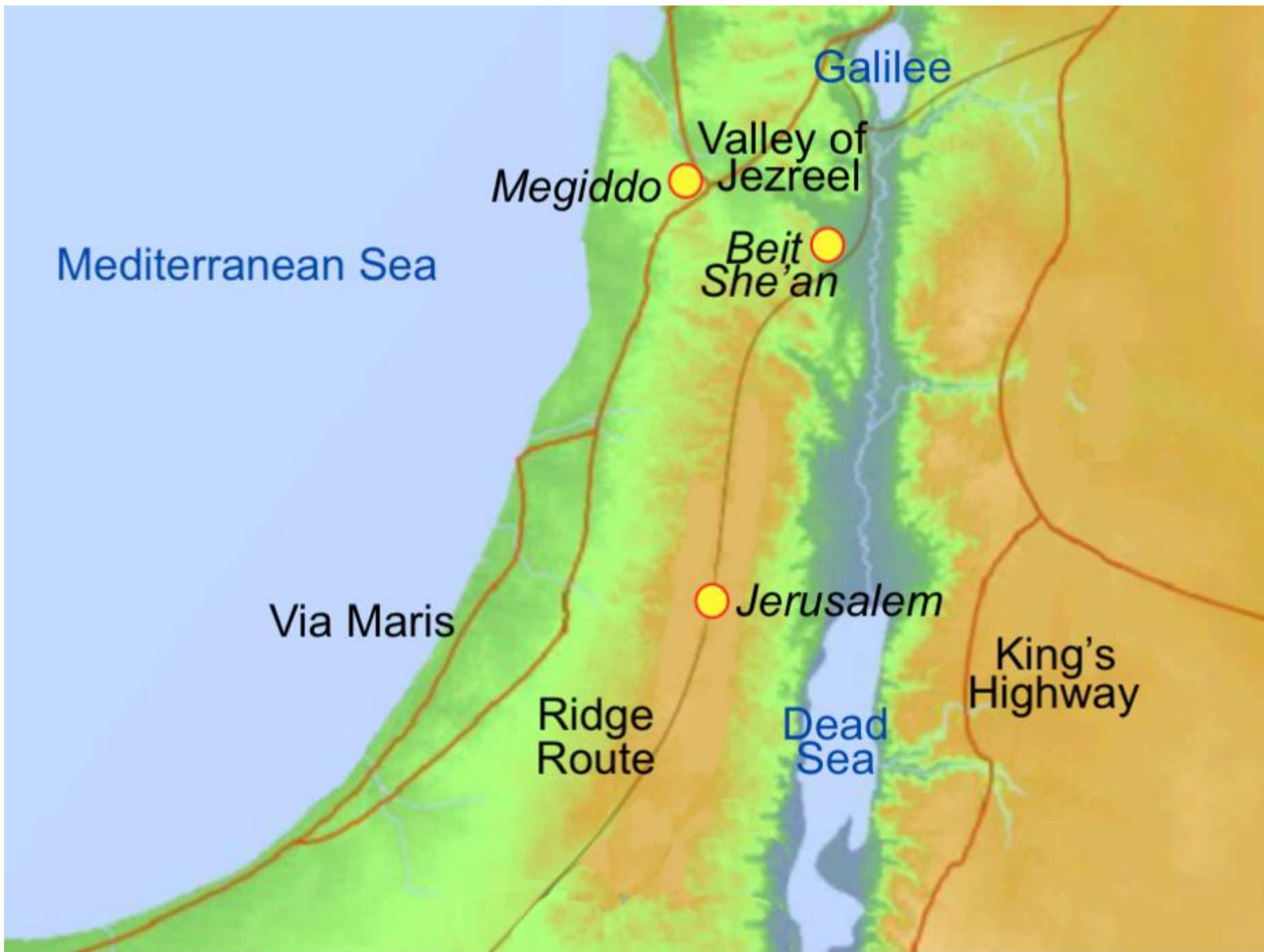
Jesus Calls Levi (Matthew): Two Sets of Two Vocations

- ¹³ He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

Levi as Tax Collector

- Jewish, the son of Alphaeus
- Bid for the position to Roman officials
- Kept any money above an agreed amount paid to Rome
- Customs official: taxed merchants and fishermen
- Operated from a booth on the Via Maris (Way of the Sea)





Galilee

Valley of Jezreel

Megiddo

Beit She'an

Mediterranean Sea

Via Maris

Jerusalem

Ridge Route

Dead Sea

King's Highway

II. Meals: Building Relationships (vv. 15-20)

- A. Jesus banquets with “outcasts”
- B. The call to sinners precedes the forgiveness of sins
- C. True righteousness vs. self-righteousness
- D. Fasting: the “already” and the “not yet”

Jesus Banquets with “Outcasts” (Mark 2:15)

- ¹⁵ And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

No Prerequisites: (Matthew 11:28-30)

- ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Prerequisites in College: (Concordia University-Wisconsin)

- **COMM 270. Sports Journalism. (3 Credits)**
- This course introduces students to the skills of a sports journalist, primarily the techniques and principles of interviewing, reporting, and writing sports. A hands-on approach is emphasized, with several opportunities for field experience.
Prerequisites: (COMM 265 [Journalism] or ENG 104 [Intro to Writing])

Righteousness vs. Self-righteousness (Mark 2:16-17)

- ¹⁶ And the scribes of^[a] the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat^[b] with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

A Religious Tradition: Fasting

- ¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”

Fasting: The Day of Atonement (+)

²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁷ “Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall fast, and present a food offering to the LORD. ²⁸ And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. ²⁹ For whoever is not fasting on that very day shall be cut off from his people.

--Leviticus 23:26-29

Together with Christ: “Already” No Fasting

- ¹⁹ And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

Together with Christ: “Not Yet” Fasting

- ²⁰ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

- Prophecy of Christ's death

III. Mismatches: Discernment Required (vv. 21-22)

- A. New fabric shrinks; new wine expands
- B. Wisdom literature: paradox and context
- C. Patch or Replace?
- D. Uncontainable Spirit

Wisdom literature: paradox and context (Mark 2:21)

- ²¹ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.

Patch or Replace?

- Worn-out Old Traditions → Replace with new and better
(e.g. “Legalism”)
- Fad religious traditions → Avoid!
(“New Age” philosophy)
- Valuable Old Traditions → Keep!
(Worship, Communion)
- Worn-in Old Traditions → Wears well 😊
(Bible Study, Prayer Life, Community Service)

Wisdom literature: paradox and context (Mark 2:22)

- ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

Uncontainable Spirit

(2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

- ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
- Levi, a tax collector, reconciled to God through Jesus Christ

Applications

- What does Jesus “bring to the table” for tax collectors and sinners?
- What are some ways today that the world offers people happiness and fulfillment?
- What are some alternatives that Christ and His Church offers?
- What from your religious past is worth keeping? What needs to be discarded?

Let Us Pray

