

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

Several years ago, I read an article that I thought I would share with you about a church and their New Year's Eve service. I have changed the name of the church to "Church", the pastor's name to "Jones" and the name of the city to "City" so not to embarrass anyone.

A City County church is dangling a couple of motorized carrots to increase its congregation.

Church Christian Center in City will give away a new Chrysler PT Cruiser to a woman and a Harley Davidson Sportster to a man at its New Year's Eve service. Parishioners and visitors have been eligible to enter for the free drawings each time they attended a service in recent weeks, and members who brought visitors could enter twice.

The church purchased the vehicles. The winners must be at Wednesday's service to drive them away.

"This is an opportunity to give something to someone that will encourage people to come to the house of the Lord," Pastor Jones told the City County Daily News in Sunday's editions. "We want to do something to have a positive effect on people's lives."

Did you catch that last line? *"We want to do something to have a positive effect on people's lives."* I thought Jesus had a positive effect on people's lives, not some car or motorcycle.

Now I don't know about you, but I have never read anywhere in the bible where Jesus says to follow Him, and you will be entered in a drawing for a free camel or chariot. But we seem to come up with all sorts of ideas to try to get people to come to church. Jesus offered nothing more than eternal life and that drew hundreds of thousands to Him during His ministry while He was here on the earth. It has also drawn billions to Jesus in the last 2000 years.

We need to offer people the same thing Jesus did and stop trying to entice them with worldly things to come to church. After all, you do not get to heaven by driving a PT Cruiser or a Harley Davidson. The only way to heaven is through Jesus Christ, and what better way to end the year than sharing Jesus with someone, and possibly having them get saved, starting 2025 as a new creation in Jesus Christ!

† **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*