

Matthew 9

But go and learn what this means: *'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.'* For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

Matthew 9:13

PRAYER: Father, please show me the miraculous powers of Jesus as He continues His authenticating miracles in Matthew 9.

Journal *your* prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 9, Jesus *teaches, preaches, and heals* as He performs marvelous miracles, calls Matthew as a disciple, and casts out demons.

Matthew 9 Outline:

The Paralytic Is Forgiven - Read Matthew 9:1-8

Matthew Is Called - Read Matthew 9:9

The Disciples Eat with Sinners- Read Matthew 9:10-13

The Disciples Do Not Fast - Read Matthew 9:14-17

Life Is Restored - Read Matthew 9:18-26

Sight Is Restored - Read Matthew 9:27-31

Speech Is Restored - Read Matthew 9:32-34

The Need for Delegation of Power - Read Matthew 9:35-38

The Paralytic Is Forgiven - Read Matthew 9:1-8

Matthew 9:1-8 (NKJV)

1 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!"

4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?

6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

7 And he arose and departed to his house.

8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

For more details on this paralytic, read Mark 2:1-12 and Luke 5:17-26

1. Jesus returned to Capernaum (His own city) and began preaching the word to many in a full house (see Mark 2:1-2). Four men brought a paralytic and lowered him through the roof in hopes that Jesus would heal him (see Mark 2:3-4). What does Jesus say to the paralytic instead (v. 2)?

2. PRODUCE: Explain why Jesus' words to the paralytic were more important than physical healing (Matthew 9:2). (See Matthew 5:29-30 and Mark 9:43.)

3. What is the scribes' initial response to the miraculous healing of the paralytic (v. 3)? (See Luke 5:21.)

4. PROPOUND: In Matthew 9:3, the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemeth!" What does it mean to blaspheme?

5. One of Jesus' powers is demonstrated in the first five words of verse 4. What power is that? (See also Psalm 139:2, Matthew 12:25, and Luke 6:8.)

6. PROCEED: In Matthew 9:5, Jesus asked the scribes, "For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?" Which one is easier to "say"?

7. When capitalized, the term "Son of Man" refers to God's Messiah, destined to preside over the final judgment of mankind. Jesus often used this term regarding Himself. In Matthew 9:6, He used it to demonstrate His power to forgive sins by healing the paralytic. What was the final response of the scribes and the multitudes (v. 8)?

Matthew Is Called - Read Matthew 9:9

Matthew 9:9 (NKJV)

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.

8. Jesus called Matthew to follow Him. By what other name is Matthew referred to? (See Mark 2:14.)

9. What was Matthew's response to Jesus' call (v. 9)? (See Luke 5:27-28.)

10. PRACTICE: Matthew arose and followed Jesus (v. 9). What did Jesus say is required to follow Him and be His disciple? (See Matthew 16:24-27, Luke 9:23-24, and Luke 14:33.)

The Disciples Eat with Sinners- Read Matthew 9:10-13

Matthew 9:10-13 (NKJV)

10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.

11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

11. Jesus goes with Matthew (Levi) to his house and eats with many tax collectors and sinners (see Mark 2:15). Eating with a person equated to identifying with the person you ate with (see 1 Corinthians 5:11.) The Pharisees questioned Jesus' motive in eating with these people. What was Jesus' response to the Pharisees (v. 12)?

12. PROCLAIM: Jesus said in Matthew 9:13, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." How should we do likewise?

13. PROPOUND: Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners, thus identifying with them (v. 9). Read Hebrews 2, How does Jesus identify with sinners?

14. PROPOUND: Jesus told the Pharisees, "Go and learn what this means: *'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.'*" What does that mean? (See Hosea 6:6, Matthew 5:7, and Matthew 12:7.)

The Disciples Do Not Fast - Read Matthew 9:14-17

Matthew 9:14-17 (NKJV)

14 Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"

15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse.

17 Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

15. John's disciples questioned Jesus about why His disciples didn't fast. Jesus responded by referring to His disciples as friends of the bridegroom (v. 15). What did John say the friend of the bridegroom would do instead of fasting? (See John 3:29.)

16. When answering John's disciples, Jesus referred to old and new wineskins. This referred to the traditions of Judaism (old wineskins) and the kingdom He was bringing forth (new wineskins). What happens if new wine is poured into old wineskins? What happens if new wine is poured into new wineskins?

Life Is Restored - Read Matthew 9:18-26

Matthew 9:18-26 (NKJV)

18 While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."

19 So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples.

20 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.

21 For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."

22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

23 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing,

24 He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him.

25 But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.

26 And the report of this went out into all that land.

Read Mark 5:21-43 and Luke 8:40-56 for more details on this account.

17. A ruler of the synagogue named Jairus came to Jesus because his 12-year-old daughter just died (see Luke 8:41-42). What did Jairus believe about Jesus' power (v. 18)?

18. What was Jesus' response to Jairus' request (v. 19)? What was the result (v. 25)?

19. While a woman had a flow of blood she was considered ceremonially unclean (see Leviticus 15:25). A woman who had a flow of blood for 12 years came and touched the hem of Jesus' garment; immediately her flow stopped (see Luke 8:44). What did the woman say to herself (v. 21)? What did Jesus say to make her well (v. 22)?

Sight Is Restored - Read Matthew 9:27-31

Matthew 9:27-31 (NKJV)

27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."

31 But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

20. Two blind men followed Jesus as He made His way to the house. It's very likely that large crowds followed Jesus (see Luke 8:45). As the blind men cried out and followed Jesus, where did He go (v. 28)?

21. PROTECT: Give some thought to the story of the two blind men (see Matthew 9:27-31). Why do you think Jesus waited for them to find Him inside the house, knowing they were blind (v. 28)? The answer is in Jesus' response to them (v. 29).

22. PROPOUND: Notice that Jesus didn't ask the two blind men what they wanted Him to do (see Matthew 20:29-34). Rather, He asked them if they believe that He is able. What did Jesus say their restored sight would be in accordance with (v. 29)?

Speech Is Restored - Read Matthew 9:32-34

Matthew 9:32-34 (NKJV)

32 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.

33 And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

34 But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."

23. Isaiah 29:18 and 35:4-6 list miracles that would be seen when the Messiah came. Among those miracles is the tongue of the dumb singing (see Isaiah 35:6). What do the multitudes do and say in response to the mute man speaking (v. 33)?

24. How did the Pharisees respond (v. 34)? Why was their response so terrible? (See Matthew 12:24-32.)

The Need for Delegation of Power - Read Matthew 9:35-38

Matthew 9:35-38 (NKJV)

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

25. What three things comprised Jesus' ministry on earth (v. 35)? (See also Matthew 4:23.)

26. PROPOUND: What was Jesus' response to the multitudes as He went about the cities and villages (Matthew 9:36)?

27. PROPOUND: How were the multitudes described as Jesus saw them (Matthew 9:36)?

28. Jesus told His disciples that the harvest is truly plentiful (v. 37). What harvest is He referring to? (See Matthew 9:35-36.)

29. PROPOUND: Whose harvest is plentiful (v. 38)?

30. Although the harvest is plentiful, Jesus said the laborers are few (v. 37). What is the job of the laborers? (See Matthew 10.)

31. PROMOTE: What did Jesus instruct His disciples to pray (Matthew 9:38)? How were those prayers answered? (See Matthew 10.)

PROCESS: Take some time to review Jesus' miracles in Matthew 9. What miraculous touch do you need from Jesus? Imagine Jesus asking you the same question he asked the two blind men: "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" Be ready to share your insights with the group.

PRAY: Father, thank You for Jesus! He is everything I need for all the problems in my life. Please help me to have faith like those in Matthew 9 for the touch from Jesus that I need.

Journal *your* prayer here: