

Matthew 9

. In chapters 5-7, Jesus has revealed the kingdom of God through His words. In the next two chapters, He will reveal the kingdom of God by His power through healings and by overpowering Satan. Matthew will record for us ten miracles that validate His teachings. He will focus on those who are Jewish outcasts: lepers, Gentiles, and women.

In chapter 8, we saw Jesus healing the leper, the centurion's servant, Peter's mother, and the demoniac. We also saw Jesus's prerequisites for following Him: the scribe and the one who needed to bury his mother. We also saw Jesus calm the sea during a storm when in the boat with His disciples.

So we see Jesus prevailing over disease, demoniacs, and nature.

In chapter 9 we're going to see even more healings. Not only are these healings to validate His teachings, but they are done through love and compassion, not just to prove His identity. (Compare this with so-called "faith healers.")

9:1-8 – The healing of a paralytic (which was) based on "their faith."

(Read)

There are a number of important observations.

Number one, **Jesus points to the man's core problem: personal sin.**

(Comment)

Here's **The point: sin paralyzes.**

Second, **Jesus declares Himself "the Son of Man."**

What this means it that **He as the power to forgive sins.**

(Comment) This is mankind's core problem!

So by this, **Jesus proves that He has the power to forgive sin: "Walk!"**

9:9-13 – The call of Matthew by His simple words: "Follow Me!"

There are three key messages in this passage. First, Matthew follows without hesitation. (Comment) Luke includes that Matthew "left everything."

Second, Jesus demonstrates His mission as well as His compassion by "dining" with sinners.

Third, the huge disconnect of the Pharisees in regard to how people are viewed. In this passage, we see the practice of religion versus the issues of the heart laid bare. And Jesus' declaration provides an updated definition of what it means to be sick. You can be physically sick, but you can also be spiritually sick; the latter has the greater consequences. This revelation is going to dramatically undercut the self-image of the Pharisee. Essentially, they have it all wrong of what it means to be righteous (healthy).

So Matthew's dinner demonstrates that Jesus has compassion on all people, and that includes you and me.

There are so many lessons here on how we view others. We don't meet another person without immediately forming some opinion about them. Do I identify with this person? How do I class this person, above me or below me? (Etc.)

The commentator Barclay rephrases Jesus' statement this way: "I did not come to invite people who are so self-satisfied that they are convinced of their own goodness and that they do not need anyone's help; I came to invite people who are very conscious of their sin and desperately aware of the need for a savior."

So, who do we invite to our dinners?

Read 9:14-17 and comment

This has huge ramifications in terms of how we practice our faith. It arises in how we do church and how we practice our faith.

What do we do because we've always done it that way before.

Example: Beginnings of Calvary Chapel.

Now, this raises some issues about how much we rely upon the OT for the practice of our faith. The purpose of the OT is not to teach us how to practice our faith; it is there to point us to Jesus and to practice His faith, to imitate His relationship to the Father.

Here's the point: **9:14-17 – Jesus declares that religious practices such as fasting are not the answer to being right with God.** (Example, how we dress for church, what music we sing, contemporary vs. liturgical, et cetera.) **Being right with God lies in being in a close relationship with Jesus. And that is it!**

In **9:18-34** we see **Four healings with a point:** (Read 18-34 w/ comments.)

First, **The synagogue official's daughter: she was dead!**

Second, **The woman with a hemorrhage: she was unclean!**

Third, **The blind men were healed: a result of their faith!**

Fourth, **The mute, demonized man was able to praise God!**

And in all of this....

...the Pharisees felt no compassion!!! And that is one of the great contrasts! There's love, and then there is distrust and distain. Such reactions separate the sheep from the goats and tell us exactly what a person's heart is like.

Read 9:35-38

9:35-38 – Jesus was “going,” “teaching,” “proclaiming,” and “healing every kind of disease and sickness.”

All of Jesus' healings were based on love and compassion.

Note the contrast with the Pharisees.

In commissioning His disciples, He is foreshadowing the *spread of the Gospel.*

And what is that gospel? That in Jesus, our sins can be forgiven.