

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 8/30-31/2021 *Matthew Chapter 9*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Objectives of Study – Jesus, the healer and forgiver of sins!

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: The Gospel According to Matthew! *Chapter 9:*

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic – (vs. 1- 8)

Matthew the Tax Collector – (vs. 9-13);

Jesus is Questioned About Fasting – (vs. 14-17);

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed – (vs. 18-26);

**Two Blind Men Healed – (vs. 27-31);
A Mute Man Speaks – (vs. 32-34)
The Compassion of Jesus – (vs. 35-38)**

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

- **Jesus had gone with His disciples to the other side** of the Sea of Galilee, which is about five miles from the area of Gadara to Capernaum. It's not that long of a journey. When He was there at Gadara, He met those two men who were possessed by evil spirits who lived in the tombs. The demons were cast out of the men and went into a herd of swine that was nearby, which stampeded down the cliff into the sea and were drowned. The people from Gadara came out to meet Jesus. They begged Him to leave the area, declaring Him to be a public nuisance. He was bad for business.

Mat 9:1 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

- **It is interesting that Jesus didn't force Himself upon the people who didn't want Him.** It seems wrong for us to try to force the Gospel down people's throat. Our task is to witness to people of what the Lord has done for us, but surely not to try to coerce or force them to receive our witness. Jesus, rather than arguing the point with them, debating with them, just got into the ship,
- **Mark's gospel tells us that it was Capernaum, His own city,** the headquarters for the ministry of Jesus while He was here on the earth. More were done in Capernaum than any other of the cities. Most of the gospels are centered around the ministry of Jesus in Capernaum and the area of the Galilee.

Mat 9:2 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."

(Mar 2:4) And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. (Luk 5:20) When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

- **This disease of paralysis** is one that attacks the joints of the body causing a constriction, which is extremely painful and paralyzing. This man was in the further stages as he is now confined to a bed. He could not walk and had to be carried.
- **Faith is full of inventions. The house was full.** A crowd blocked the door, but faith found a way of getting at the Lord and placing the palsied man before Him. If we cannot get sinners where Jesus is by ordinary methods we must use extraordinary ones. According to Mark and Luke, a tiling had to be removed, which would make dust and cause a measure of danger to those below, but where the case is very urgent we must not mind running some risks and shocking some proprieties. Then, whether it be thought the door, or window, or roof, let us, breaking through all impediments, labor to bring poor souls to Jesus. All means are good and proper when faith and love are truly set on winning souls. Jesus was there to heal, and therefore come what may, faith ventured all so that her poor paralyzed charge might have his sins forgiven. O that we had more daring faith! Cannot we seek it, right now, for ourselves and for our fellow believers? Can we not try to-day to perform some bold act for the love of souls and the glory of the Lord? (paraphrased from C.H. Spurgeon)
- **When Jesus saw their faith.** Faith is an interesting thing, and we don't always know whose faith it is. Here Jesus sees their faith and no doubt, referring to the faith of the friends of this man who brought him to Jesus. The other gospels tell us that when they got to the house where Jesus was, it was so crowded they couldn't get in, so they climbed up on the roof and removed some tiles and let the man by ropes down into the room where Jesus was. But He "**saw their faith,**" In a little bit we're going to see the healing of the woman who was hemorrhaging. In that case, it was her faith. Jesus commended her for her faith. When the blind men came to Jesus later on in the chapter, He will say to them, "According to your faith, be it done." With the centurion last week, it was his faith. When we get to the daughter of the ruler of the Jews in the chapter here, surely it wasn't her faith, she was dead. It seems it was just a sovereign work of Jesus.
- **Jesus will work in response to our faith and sometimes He will work even though there may be a lack of faith on our part.** He is sovereign, and He can do His work either through our faith or apart from our faith. That is good because we are so anxious to exalt man and exalt ourselves that we would even brag about how much faith we have and encourage people to come that they might benefit from our faith, which draws attention to ourselves rather than to Jesus. In the early church they had the elders. If they're sick, call for the elders of the church and that way, no particular person is singled out for credit or for praise or for prominence, but "the prayer of faith," that is, of the elders, "will save the sick." The Lord is the One that gets the praise! The Lord is the One who is glorified through the work. That is the way it should be, that no man or flesh should glory in His sight.

- **He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."** There were probably three responses to that-- the paralytic, the friends who brought him and the scribes and pharisees. The response of the friends who were up on the roof probably still holding on to the ropes, who were saying, No, no, no, Lord, that's not why we brought him here, to get his sins forgiven! We brought him here so he could get healed. We want him to be able to walk. But in reality, Jesus was giving him the greater gift first!
- **For the fellow himself, it must have been a tremendous relief.** The burden and the guilt of sin rolled away. I don't care if I ever walk, I'm forgiven! The joy of forgiveness and of knowing that I am at peace with God. I can fellowship with God, my sins are forgiven!
- **Really, it is more important that your sins be forgiven** than you be healed of your ailments. What is more important than our salvation? Nothing. My healing is not as important as my salvation. The greatest miracle God has wrought in my life is my miracle of salvation, the forgiveness of my sins. That's God's greatest miracle in my life, the rest is really nothing compared to that great miracle of God!

Mat 9:3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!"

- **We do read of the response of the scribes that were there, the orthodox religious people.** The gospel of Mark tells us that they reasoned correctly that no man can forgive sins, only God. Throughout the gospels, Jesus is proving that He is God. It is true only God can forgive sins because sin is against God. It may affect me. It may be that you cheated me, that's a sin. It may affect me, but the sin isn't against me, the sin is against God.
- **When David had committed his sin in taking Bathsheba,** as he prayed for forgiveness, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions." He said, "Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned and done this great evil in Thy sight."
- **Who can forgive sins but God alone?** Their response was a negative response. This is the beginning of the opposition against Jesus that will grow among the religious leaders, more intense as the days go by, until He will finally be hanging on a cross. But it begins with Jesus saying to this fellow, Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.

Mat 9:4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

- **They were accusing Him of blasphemy.** "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

Mat 9:5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?

- **It is much easier to say, Your sins are forgiven you,** because no one can tell whether or not anything really happened. It's an inward work of the Spirit, the forgiveness of sins, and I can't look at you and say, Oh my, your sins are just gone. I may say that, but I don't really know. I can't see what's in your heart. There may be evil still there in your heart and so I can't observe the sins going away.
- **But if you are cripple, and I say to you, Rise up out of the wheel chair and walk,** then I have an observable experience that proves there is authority and power in my words, if you rise up and walk. If you don't, then that's sort of proof that there is no authority or power in my words. They are just empty words. Jesus is going to prove that His words are with power, and they do have authority! That is the purpose. But Jesus took care of the greatest need first! The greatest need was the forgiveness of sins.
- **It is possible that the man's illness was directly related to his sin.** There is that possibility. Thus, in the forgiveness of his sins, there was that immediate kind of a healing that began to take place within. But the greatest need is the forgiveness of sins because that takes care of the eternal issues. Whether he ever walks or not is not as important as his being forgiven of his sins that he might spend eternity in heaven with the Lord! Whatever your need is right now, you may have some physical need, financial need, or otherwise, but the greatest need that you have is the forgiveness of sins and until that issue is settled, everything else is secondary.

Mat 9:6 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."

- **The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins.** Notice Jesus having this great power to forgive sin, even though it is before the ransom had been paid, before the blood had been literally sprinkled on the mercy-seat! Therefore, does He not now have that same or even more boundless power now that He has finished transgression and made an end of sin? If you have any doubts, see Him rising from the dead! See Him ascending into heaven raised to the right hand of God! Listen to Him pleading before the Father, pointing to His wounds, urging the merit of His sacred passion! What power to forgive is here! "He has ascended on high and received gifts for men." "He is exalted on high to give repentance and remission of sins." The most crimson sins are removed by the crimson of His blood.
- **At this moment, whatever is your sinfulness, Christ has power to pardon you and millions of others.** A word will speak it. He has nothing more to do to win your pardon; all the atoning work is done. He can, in answer to your tears, forgive your sins today, and make your know it. He can breathe into your soul at this

very moment a peace with God which passeth all understanding, which shall spring from perfect remission of your many iniquities. **Do you believe that? I trust you do!** May you now experience the power of Jesus to forgive sin! Waste no time in asking, seeking and knocking in prayer to your Savior! (paraphrased from C.H. Spurgeon)

Mat 9:7 *And he arose and departed to his house.*

- **The words do have power.** He does speak with authority. I can now see the fellow walking down the street who was once bound up with this crippling palsy and I realize He speaks with authority and power.

Mat 9:8 *Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.*

- *So let your light so shine before men that when they see your good works, they glorify your Father, and here is Jesus doing just that. As they see the good work, they glorified God.*
- *Who had given such power to men;* of working miracles, healing diseases, and delivering miserable mortals from such maladies, as were otherwise incurable? The multitudes were still looking upon Christ as a mere man, by whom God did these things. They did not yet know the mystery of the incarnation; God manifest in the flesh.

Jesus Calls Matthew

Mat 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.*

- **Matthew was a tax collector.** They were not popular men. They were usually shysters. They had a certain quota that they had to give to the Roman government. Anything they could collect over that quota became theirs. Basically, the whole system had the graft and corruption built in. Capernaum was one of the major cities on the route from Damascus to Egypt. There were taxes of all kinds, such as for entering a city; on the goods that you were carrying through a city: on the number of wheels on the chariots; for going over bridges; pretty much everything. Matthew was sitting at the receipt of customs, as a custom agent, collecting the customs for the goods that were coming in or passing through Capernaum. Jesus just called to him to follow Me. *So he arose and followed Him.*
- **Probably this was not the first time that Matthew had been exposed to Jesus, being with him** on different occasions. He was probably attracted and drawn to Jesus. But now Jesus is calling him into a full-time kind of a ministry. To leave his job, the job, security of a tax collector, and follow Me. That is still all it takes to turn from a life of meaningless corruption to become a servant of the Living God. Just follow Him!
- *(Luk 5:29) Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them.* Levi, (Matthew) had a dinner with Jesus as the guest. He invited all of the other tax collectors in town, and the sinners.

Mat 9:10 *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.*

- **The gathering in Matthew's house,** was likely a going away party for Matthew as far as his public office and job was concerned.

Mat 9:11 *And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*

- **Opposition to Jesus had begun** with the declaration to this fellow, "*Your sins are forgiven.*" Now continued opposition to Jesus, When they saw Jesus sitting there with these publicans and sinners, they thought that He is associating with the wrong crowd. They were especially hated in Israel because they were cooperating with the Roman government, collecting the taxes for Rome. The orthodox religious people of the day, the Pharisees, and scribes, would not so much as sit down and eat with the sinner because that would constitute to them a defilement.
- **Eating together in those days** consisted of lying around a low table, just above the floor level. They would eat the common bread. It was good wholesome bread and tough. You would pull it apart and you just pass the loaf around and just pull off a piece of bread, not having knives, forks, and spoons. You would just take the bread and dip it in the various sauces. You dip it in the soup that was in the middle of the table. They didn't have the kind of rules that you only dip it once. So, eating was sort of a sloppy task. Sort of a mixture of touching the same food, and eating together from the same bowls, from the same dishes. In their minds, it meant a uniting of lives because we are eating from the common bowl of soup, we are eating from the common loaf of bread. We're dipping in the same sauces. If you were eating meat, you just grab hold of the meat and pull off chunks of meat.

- **At the end of the meal, they would wipe all the grease off with the piece of bread**, tossing it to the little puppies that were around. That is, they got the thing where the woman said to Jesus, “But the little puppies eat the crumbs that fall from the master’s table,” talking about that last piece of bread that was used to wash or to wipe your hands off with and tossed to the dogs. They thought of this as becoming one with the other person because that bread that I’m eating, you’re eating. It is becoming a part of me. It is becoming a part of you. So, in a mystic sense, we’re becoming a part of each other. Being nourished by the same bread, by the same soup, by the same sauces. They would never eat with sinners because they didn’t want to be associated or become one with sinners. Here now is Jesus eating with them. They begin to criticize Him because He is eating with these publicans and with these sinners.

Mat 9:12 *When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.*

- **Jesus came to heal.** Those that were whole, those that were well, they didn’t need a physician. So, Jesus was going where the sick ones were, mixing with them. They were the ones who were needing the physician.

Mat 9:13 *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." (Hos 6:6a) For I desire mercy and not sacrifice*

- **Giving them a scripture out of Hosea, Jesus said, Learn what this means,** where God said I will have mercy and not sacrifice. God spoke about the importance of forgiveness rather than burnt offerings. God wasn’t as interested in the religious observances as He was the heart of compassion and mercy towards others. Jesus said, *Learn what this means.* For God said to Israel, I don’t want your sacrifices. I want you to be merciful. I don’t want your burnt offerings. He’s interested in the attitude of your heart. That we learn that deeper meaning of the words, that God valued mercy for the souls for which Christ died, above that outward correctness. Jesus challenges them to 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."*** . He didn’t come to reform. He came to reach the sinners, to call them to repentance.

A Question About Fasting

Mat 9:14 *Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"*

- **They were questioning Jesus about fasting.** We’re John’s disciples and we’re fasting all the time. Also, the Pharisees are always fasting. Why don’t your disciples fast? How come?

Mat 9:15 *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.*

- **Jesus said, as long as I’m with them here, it’s not a time for mourning, but for rejoicing.** Now the *friends of the bridegroom.* In those days when a couple got married, they didn’t go on a honeymoon. But they had open house for one week. Their friends would drop in and always food and always party atmosphere and those that would come and would party, called *the friends of the bridegroom.* They were joining in the festivities. The bride and the groom were called king and queen for the week. It was a time of celebration! So, while Jesus is here, it’s time for celebration. The time will come, bridegroom will be taken and then they will fast.

Mat 9:16 *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.*

- **And now Jesus shows the problems of reformation.** An old system that has become fixed in its ways. It’s hard to change. It is hard to bring something new, to be innovative against the old traditions, the old ways. He is speaking about His breaking the traditions. He’s eating with sinners and publicans. His disciples aren’t fasting. He’s breaking with the religious traditions of the time.
- **Now in those days, they didn’t have Sanforized, preshrunk clothes.** If you had an old garment that had been washed many times, of course it had shrunk, all it’s going to shrink. But if you have a new patch that you put in to that old garment, of new cloth that hasn’t been shrunk, the first time you wash it, that new cloth will shrink, and it will tear all around the patch. So, your tear may actually become worse. You don’t put a new cloth patch on an old garment.

Mat 9:17 *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."*

- **Their practice was to put their wine into these wineskins.** The old skins would become hard and brittle. If you would put the new wine in the hard and brittle skins, as it began to ferment and the gases form and it would begin to expand, bursting the old, hardened leather skins. You just didn't do that. You put it into the soft, new pliable leather skins, which expand with the gases that were created through the fermentation process.
- **It's interesting and tragic how that throughout the history of the church,** we see constantly new movements being raised up. Why? Because the old get hard and brittle. We begin to develop the traditions. We get locked into traditions. God wants to do a new work, but it doesn't fit into our traditions. We can't find that in our by-laws. It is amazing how we can get so structured and so traditional that there is no room for the movement of the Spirit.
- **Throughout church history, we have found that whenever God wants to inaugurate a new work,** He doesn't really try to reform the old system, but He just goes outside of it and begins something new. For the new wine, He creates a new skin. Tragically, it doesn't take very long to develop the rigid systems that preclude any fresh moving of the Spirit of God. They feel that if they are careful enough in how they pour the wine in, surely they can bring some new life without bursting the skin. I'm skilled. I know how to do it.

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

Mat 9:18 *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."*

(Mar 5:22-23) And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live."

- **Jairus, is one of the rulers of the synagogue there in Capernaum.** He worshipped Jesus, *My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.*" Now here is an expression of great faith! Lord, my daughter is dead, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." This man is a ruler of the synagogue. It is his task to make sure that the Mosaic laws and the traditions are kept. But it's amazing, when your little daughter is dead or dying, that in desperation you'll break with tradition, and you'll seek Jesus and seek the help of Jesus! It doesn't matter what the others say, my little daughter is dead and she's more important! She is twelve years old. She is my only child.. She is the love and the light of my life.
- **Jesus is passing through the throng to the house of Jairus, to raise the ruler's dead daughter;** but He is so overflowing in goodness that He works another miracle while upon the road. It is enough for us, if we have some one purpose, going directly to accomplish it. It seems imprudent to expend our energies by the way. If we were rescuing a drowning friend, we cannot afford to spend our strength upon another in like danger. But our Master knows no limit of power or boundary of mission!
- **He is so prolific of grace, that like the sun which shines as it rolls onward in its orbit, His path is radiant with lovingkindness.** He is a swift arrow of love, which not only reaches its ordained target, but perfumes the air through which it flies. Virtue is evermore going out of Jesus, as sweet odors come forth from flowers, as water from a sparkling fountain. What delightful encouragement this truth affords us!
- **If our Lord is so ready to heal the sick and bless the needy, then, my soul, be not slow to put yourself in His way, that He may smile on you!** Be not slack in asking, if He be so abundant in giving those who ask. Give earnest heed to His word now. At all times, that Jesus may speak through it to your heart. Where He is to be found there make your dwelling place, that you may obtain His blessing. When He is present to heal, will He not heal you? But surely He is present even now, for He always comes to hearts which need Him. Do you not need Him? Yes! Oh, He knows how much! Son of David, turn Your eye and look upon the distress which is now before You! Make me whole! (paraphrased from C.H. Spurgeon)

Mat 9:19 *So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples.*

Mat 9:20 *And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.*

Mat 9:21 *For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."*

- **A flow of blood for twelve years.** A woman was considered unclean when she was in her menstrual period. Any bed that she would sit on or lie in, that bed would be considered unclean. Anyone who sat upon it

would be looked upon as unclean. Whatever she touched would be unclean during this menstrual period. Here is this woman who has been in this condition for twelve years. If anybody touched her, they would be unclean. Now there was a crowd around Jesus, the other gospels say they were thronging Him. There was a pushing, shoving, had they known that this woman was in the crowd, she would have been in trouble. But in her mind, she said, I know that if I could just touch the hem, a part of the garment with a little tassel on it. If I could just touch that, I would be healed!

- **She had established a point of contact for the releasing of faith.** There seems to be some value to that. Many times, our faith is sort of passive. Oh, I know the Lord can do it. Yes, I believe that God has the power to do it. I do believe that! But we never activate the faith. We never say, I know the Lord is going to do it now. Or setting a time, I know that the Lord is going to do it! I'm setting a place where I will release that faith and activate the faith. She had done that! She had set a point of contact. The moment I touch the hem of His garment, I know that I'm going to be healed! I know the blood is going to stop flowing. So, she made her way through the crowd. She got close to Jesus. She touched the hem of His garment. Immediately, the issue of blood ceased!

Mat 9:22 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. (Mar 5:33) But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

- **The woman was made well from that hour.** This is one of the most touching and teaching of the Savior's miracles. The woman was ignorant. She imagined that virtue came out of Christ by a law of necessity, without His knowledge or direct will. Moreover, she was a stranger to the generosity of Jesus' character, or she would not have gone behind to steal the cure which He was so ready to bestow. Misery should always place itself right in the face of mercy. Had she known the love of Jesus' heart, she would have said, "I have but to put myself where He can see me. His omniscience will teach Him my case, and His love at once will work my cure."
- **We admire her faith, but we marvel at her ignorance.** *(Mar 5:33) But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.* After she had obtained the cure, she rejoiced with trembling, being glad was she that the divine virtue had wrought a marvel in her; but she feared lest Christ should retract the blessing and put a negative upon the grant of His grace. Little did she comprehend the fulness of His love!
- **We do not have so clear a view of Him as we could wish.** We know not the heights and depths of His love; but we know of a full assurance that He is too good to withdraw from a trembling soul the gift which it has been able to obtain. But here is the marvel of it! As little as was her knowledge, her faith, because it was real faith, saved her, and saved her at once. There was no delay! Faith's miracle was instantaneous. If we can venture in the press behind Him, and touch the hem of His garment, we are made whole. Courage, timid one! Your faith has saved you! Go in peace. "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God." (paraphrased from C.H. Spurgeon)

Mat 9:23 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing,

- **When someone died, they would hire flute players.** They could make such a wailing noise with the flutes that the Roman government limited them to ten. Somehow they felt that the more noise, the more grief was expressed. They also had professional wailers. Women who were extremely skillful in wailing. They would hire the wailers to come in, and they would go into this sing-song type of wailing with these flutes screeching. It was a noisy thing that was going on, announcing to the whole neighborhood the mourning and grief that was being experienced by the family.
- **Then there was the tearing of the clothes to express grief.** There were some thirty-nine rules concerning the tearing of your clothes. You had to tear them over your heart. You had to tear them down to the skin. The tear had to be big enough to get a fist through it. You could not sew it for two weeks, and then you would have to sew it very loosely so you could still see the skin and it wasn't until after a month that you could go ahead and really mend up the garment that you had torn. Again, it was a sign of grief. The ripping of the clothes was a sign of grief, the exposing of my heart. My heart is breaking and grieving in on you.

Mat 9:24 He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him.

- **Again, now opposition developing.** They start laughing at Him. They laughed Him to scorn. They turned on Him. After all, they'd been hired to come and do the wailing. He's going to put them out of a job. This shows how deep their wailing was, because now they're ridiculing Him!

Mat 9:25 *But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.*

- *The girl arose!* As out of sleep; she revived! Her soul came to her again, and she got off the bed. She walked about the house. Food was ordered to be given to her. She fully demonstrated she was really restored to life, which was as clear a case, as that before she was really dead!

Mat 9:26 *And the report of this went out into all that land.*

- For though He strictly told the parents that they should tell no man what was done, the large numbers of people, who knew full well and were assured she had been dead! When these saw her alive, walk about, eat and drink, and converse with them, would certainly relate it, so that the fame of it could not but be spread all over the land.

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

Mat 9:27 *When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"*

- **By the Son of David the Jews meant the Messiah.** This was therefore a profession of belief, on the part of these blind men, of the Messiahship of Jesus, and, at the same time, the expression of a belief that, being the Messiah, He could heal them.
- *Have mercy on us* - Show compassion toward us in our affliction, and restore to us the blessing of sight.

Mat 9:28 *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."*

- *Do you believe that I am able to do this?* That is, to have mercy on them, as they requested, by curing them of their blindness; but partly, for the further trial of their faith and for the sake of those, that were in the house.
- *They said to Him, "Yes, Lord".* They firmly believed He had power to do it. They had not the least doubt and hesitation in their minds about it; for though their bodily eyes were at present blind, the eyes of their understandings were enlightened, to see and know Jesus to be the true Messiah, David's Son, and Lord.

Mat 9:29 *Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."*

- *Then touched He their eyes.* Not but that he could have restored sight to them, without touching their eyes, by a word speaking, or by the secret communication of his power; but He might do this as a sign of His favor and kindness to them, and of His will to cure them; as also in compliance with their weakness, who might expect some manual operation upon them;
- *According to your faith let it be unto you,* not that faith in His person and power, was the cause or condition of this cure, or the rule and measure according to which Christ proceeded; but that as they had believed He was able to heal them, accordingly a cure should be effected; which, upon His so saying, they immediately found performed in them.

Mat 9:30 *And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."*

Mat 9:31 *But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.*

- **Keep it quiet.** He didn't want any premature movement of the people to acclaim Him as the King and look to Him to overthrow the Roman government.

Jesus Heals a Man Unable to Speak

Mat 9:32 *As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.*

- **It was the Jewish understanding and tradition** of demon possession, that a demon could never be cast out until the demon was named by the one possessed. Therefore, this man could not be helped in that he was mute. Jesus, however, had no such problem. He cast out the demon and the mute spoke!

Mat 9:33 *And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"*

- **This miracle was particularly amazing to the multitudes!** It demonstrated the complete and awesome of Jesus over the demonic realm. It also showed the weakness of the traditions of the rabbis.

Mat 9:34 *But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."*

- **They are accusing now His work of being wrought through Satan.** As we move on into chapter twelve, we will come upon this again, and then the warning by Jesus concerning the unpardonable sin. But it's

starting and when we get there. We will point out the progression of what is known as the unpardonable sin. Here it's beginning; attributing the works of Jesus now to Satan.

The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Laborers Few

Mat 9:35 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.

Mat 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. (Mar 6:34) And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

- **What excitement! What thrill! Multitudes, multitudes coming!** Multitudes being healed, being touched by the Lord.
- **They weren't finding in the religious system what their souls were searching for.** They were finding it in Jesus. For deep within the heart of man, there is a search for God. Unfortunately, many religious systems keep men from God rather than bring men to God. Many times, you hear preached the loyalty to a denomination or to a church, rather than a loyalty to Jesus Christ. It's almost as though we're in competition with some other church, rather than working together for the common good of the kingdom of God. Jesus was moved with compassion. They were like sheep that were scattered. They didn't have a shepherd to watch over them, to lead them.

Mat 9:37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. (Luk 10:2) Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

- **Then He commanded them, The harvest truly is plentiful!** - Another beautiful image. A waving field of golden grain invites many reapers and demands haste. Referring to the harvest, meant that the multitude of people that flocked to his ministry was great. The people expected the Messiah. They were prepared to receive the gospel; but the laborers were few. He directed them, therefore, to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth reapers. God is the Proprietor of the great harvest of the world, and He only can send people to gather it in.

Mat 9:38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.

- **Here is a plentiful harvest.** People are scattered, people are mixed up, people are confused. Confused concerning God, there's a hunger that is there, but they're confused. Confused many times by the religious systems. Jesus said, "Pray the Lord of harvest to send out laborers, who will feed them with knowledge, and who shall be the means of spreading the knowledge of His truth and the savor of His grace over the face of the whole earth!
- **Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.** It does seem that the coming of the Lord is very close as we look at the world and world conditions and as we look at Bible prophecy. It is believed that the coming of the Lord is very near. It is really exciting, living in such times!

SUMMARY POINTS:

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic – (vs. 1- 8)

- Do I care enough about the lost to do the unusual and risky, whatever is necessary to bring them to Jesus?
- Jesus shows that He only can forgive sin and heal everybody.

Matthew the Tax Collector – (vs. 9-13);

- Matthew answers call to full time ministry! Now! Think of the good job and financial security he gave up! How committed am I to my calling?

Jesus is Questioned About Fasting – (vs. 14-17);

- The disciples of John bragged about their fasting often, blaming the disciples of Jesus for not doing so. How typical is that of myself with regard to considering the practices of others compared to my own Christian walk?
- Fast not when the bridegroom is with us, but until consider fasting as “these kind come out with nothing but prayer and fasting!
- How much of my spiritual life limited by being encased in an old wine skin? Am I like a new cloth sewn over as a patch of an old garment?

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed – (vs. 18-26); Mat 9:20 *And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. Mat 9:21* *For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."*

- Think of Jairus the Jewish synagogue religious leader coming to Jesus to ask for his daughter to be raised from the dead!
- During that time, the hemorrhaging woman interrupts. What courage and faith she showed breaking the law to come into public and touch Jesus, while she was in defilement!
- Consider the faith of the various people in each healing situation.

Two Blind Men Healed – (vs. 27-31); Mat 9:29 *Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."*

- **They said to Him, “Yes, Lord”.** They firmly believed He had power to do it. Even though their bodily eyes were at present blind, the eyes of their understandings were enlightened, to see and know Jesus to be the true Messiah, David’s Son, and Lord.
- How clearly do I see Jesus? How much faith do I have?

A Mute Man Speaks – (vs. 32-34)

- Never before had demons been cast out of a mute! Note the superiority of Jesus over the Jewish traditions.
- How often do we ask, seek and knock regarding things which seem impossible to us?

The Compassion of Jesus – (vs. 35-38)

- Am I faithfully praying for the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers? How fervent and how frequent are those prayers?

Closing Song:

(Mat 9:20-21) 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." (Mat 9:29) Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

HE TOUCHED ME! – William Gaither (3:17)

Shackled by a heavy burden, 'Neath a load of guilt and shame.

Then the hand of Jesus touched me, And now I am no longer the same.

Refrain: He touched me, Oh He touched me, And oh the joy that floods my soul!

Something happened and now I know, He touched me and made me whole.

Since I met this blessed Savior, Since He cleansed and made me whole,

I will never cease to praise Him, I'll shout it while eternity rolls. (Refrain)

Closing Prayer:

Assignment for next week: Read Matthew Chapter 10