CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Matthew Chapter 9 — Forgiveness, Mercy, and the Lord of the Harvest

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Matthew Chapter 8 showed that Jesus has authority over sickness, nature, and demons.

Matthew Chapter 9 goes even deeper.

It shows that Jesus has authority over the greatest problem of all:

Sin.

The chapter opens with a paralyzed man carried by his friends.

Everyone expects Jesus to heal his body.

Instead, Jesus says something shocking:

“Your sins are forgiven.”

The religious leaders are offended.

Only God can forgive sins.

So Jesus heals the man's body to prove He has the authority to heal his soul.

Then Jesus does something just as shocking.

He calls a tax collector named Matthew to follow Him.

Tax collectors were hated.

They were seen as traitors and cheaters.

But Jesus goes to Matthew's house and eats with tax collectors and sinners.

When the Pharisees complain, Jesus answers:

“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”

Then the miracles continue.

A synagogue leader's daughter has died.

On the way to his house, a woman who has suffered for twelve years touches Jesus' cloak and is healed.

Then Jesus takes the dead girl by the hand, and she gets up.

Two blind men cry out, **“Son of David, have mercy on us!”**

Jesus opens their eyes.

A man who cannot speak is set free from a demon, and he speaks.

The crowds are amazed.

But the Pharisees accuse Jesus of working by the power of the devil.

The chapter ends with Jesus looking at the crowds.

He sees people who are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

And His heart is filled with compassion.

He tells His disciples:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”

Matthew 9 therefore shows us two great things about Jesus:

His authority to forgive and restore.

And:

His compassion for people who are lost.

The central truth of Matthew 9 is:

Jesus has authority to forgive sins and power over sickness and death, and His heart of mercy calls sinners to Himself and sends His followers into the harvest.

I. JESUS RETURNS TO HIS OWN TOWN

Matthew 9:1 — Back to Capernaum

“Jesus got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own town.”

At the end of Matthew 8, the people of the Gadarenes begged Jesus to leave.

So Jesus got into a boat and left.

He returned to **His own town.**

This was not Nazareth, where He grew up.

It was Capernaum, where He had made His home for His ministry in Galilee.

One town sent Him away.

Another town would see His power again.

Cross References

Mark 2:1

> A few days later Jesus came back to Capernaum, and people heard that He was at home.

Luke 5:17

> One day Jesus was teaching. Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal people.

Matthew 4:13

> Jesus left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum, a town by the lake, in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali.

Spiritual Principle

When one door closes, Jesus continues His work in another place.

II. YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

Matthew 9:2 — When Jesus Saw Their Faith

“Some men brought to Him a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the man, ‘Take courage, son. Your sins are forgiven.’”

A paralyzed man could not come to Jesus on his own.

So **some men brought him.**

Mark and Luke tell us the house was so crowded they had to open the roof and lower him down.

Notice what Jesus saw:

Their faith.

Faith can be seen.

It shows itself in action.

These friends would not give up until their friend was in front of Jesus.

Then Jesus spoke tenderly.

“Take courage, son.”

But His next words surprised everyone.

“Your sins are forgiven.”

The man came for healing.

Jesus began with forgiveness.

Jesus knew that the man's deepest need was not his legs.

It was his soul.

Cross References

Mark 2:5

> When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Luke 5:20

> When Jesus saw their faith, He said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

Psalm 103:3

> He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.

Spiritual Principle

Our greatest need is not physical healing but forgiveness.

Application

Like these friends, we can bring people to Jesus by:

- Praying for them.
- Inviting them.
- Helping them.
- Refusing to give up on them.
- Carrying them when they cannot come on their own.

III. “THIS MAN IS BLASPHEMING!”

Matthew 9:3 — The Teachers of the Law

“At this, some of the teachers of the law thought to themselves, ‘This man is blaspheming!’”

The teachers of the law were offended.

They did not say it out loud.

They **thought** it.

“This man is blaspheming!”

To **blaspheme** means to insult God or to claim to be God.

They were right about one thing.

Only God can forgive sins.

When someone sins against you, you can forgive what was done to you.

But only God can forgive sin against God.

So when Jesus said, **“Your sins are forgiven,”** He was speaking as only God can speak.

Their conclusion was wrong.

Jesus was not blaspheming.

He was God.

Cross References

Mark 2:7

> “Why does this man say things like that? He is insulting God! No one can forgive sins except God alone.”

Luke 5:21

> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees began thinking, “Who is this man who is insulting God? Only God can forgive sins.”

John 10:33

> The Jews answered, “We are not stoning You for any good work, but because You insult God. You are only a man, but You claim to be God.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' authority to forgive sin is proof of His divine identity.

Key Truth

If Jesus is not God, His words were blasphemy.

If He is God, His words were grace.

IV. JESUS KNEW THEIR THOUGHTS

Matthew 9:4 — Evil in Your Hearts

“Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts?’”

The teachers had not spoken a word.

But Jesus **knew their thoughts.**

This is another sign that Jesus is God.

Only God can see into the human heart.

Jesus called their thoughts **evil.**

They were not simply confused.

They were rejecting the Son of God and accusing Him of sin.

Cross References

Mark 2:8

> Right away Jesus knew in His spirit what they were thinking. He said to them, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?”

Luke 5:22

> Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?”

Luke 6:8

> But Jesus knew what they were thinking.

Spiritual Principle

Nothing in our hearts is hidden from Jesus.

V. WHICH IS EASIER?

Matthew 9:5 — Forgiven or Get Up?

“Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?”

Jesus asked a clever question.

Which is easier to **say**?

It is easier to say, **“Your sins are forgiven.”**

No one can see whether sins are forgiven.

No one can prove it false.

But if someone says, **“Get up and walk,”** everyone will know immediately whether it is true.

So Jesus was about to do the harder thing to **say**, in order to prove the harder thing to **do.**

Cross References

Mark 2:9

> Which is easier to say to this paralyzed man: “Your sins are forgiven,” or “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk”?

Luke 5:23

> Which is easier to say: “Your sins are forgiven,” or “Get up and walk”?

John 5:8

> Jesus said to him, “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.”

Spiritual Principle

What Jesus does that we can see proves what He does that we cannot see.

VI. AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE SINS

Matthew 9:6 — Get Up and Go Home

“But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralyzed man—“Get up, take your bed, and go home.”

Jesus gave the reason for the miracle.

“So that you may know.”

The healing was a sign.

It proved that **the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**

Notice the words **on earth.**

God forgives sin from heaven.

But now the Son of Man was forgiving sin on earth, face to face.

Then Jesus turned to the man.

“Get up.”

“Take your bed.”

“Go home.”

The man who was carried in would walk out.

Cross References

Mark 2:11

> “I tell you, get up, take your mat, and go home.”

Luke 5:24

> “But I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat, and go home.”

Acts 9:34

> Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed.” Right away Aeneas got up.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus has authority both to forgive the soul and to heal the body.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The miracle on the outside proved the miracle on the inside.

VII. THE MAN GOT UP

Matthew 9:7 — He Went Home

“The man got up and went home.”

This short verse says everything.

The man got up.

He obeyed immediately.

He did not need help.

His legs were strong.

He went home.

He was forgiven.

He was healed.

He was free.

The teachers of the law could argue about Jesus' words.

But they could not argue with a walking man.

Cross References

Mark 2:12

> The man got up, picked up his mat right away, and walked out while everyone was watching. They were all amazed and praised God. They said, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Luke 5:25

> Right away the man stood up in front of them, picked up his mat, and went home praising God.

John 5:9

> Right away the man was healed. He picked up his mat and began to walk.

Spiritual Principle

Obedience to Jesus' word brings His power into our lives.

VIII. THE CROWDS PRAISED GOD

Matthew 9:8 — Filled with Awe

“When the crowds saw this, they were filled with awe and praised God, who had given such authority to men.”

The crowds responded in two ways.

They were filled with awe.

They knew they had seen something holy.

They praised God.

They gave glory to the right Person.

They did not yet fully understand that Jesus Himself is God.

But they knew God was at work through Him.

Cross References

Luke 5:26

> Everyone was amazed and began to praise God. They were filled with fear and said, “Today we have seen amazing things!”

Luke 7:16

> All the people were filled with fear and began praising God. They said, “A great prophet has come to us!” and “God has come to help His people!”

Psalm 66:5

> Come and see what God has done. He does amazing things for people.

Spiritual Principle

The right response to Jesus' power is worship.

IX. THE CALLING OF MATTHEW

Matthew 9:9 — “Follow Me”

“As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. ‘Follow Me,’ He told him. Matthew got up and followed Him.”

This is the author of this Gospel writing about himself.

Matthew was a tax collector.

Mark and Luke also call him **Levi.**

Tax collectors worked for Rome.

They collected taxes from their own people.

Many of them cheated and took more than they should.

They were considered traitors and sinners.

They were not welcome in the synagogue.

Matthew was **sitting at the tax collector's booth.**

He was doing the very thing that made him hated.

And Jesus said to him:

“Follow Me.”

Matthew **got up and followed Him.**

Peter and Andrew could go back to fishing if they wanted.

But once Matthew left his tax booth, he could never go back.

He left everything.

Cross References

Mark 2:14

> As Jesus was walking along, He saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth. Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” And Levi got up and followed Him.

Luke 5:27

> After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax booth. Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.”

Luke 19:5

> When Jesus came to that place, He looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must stay at your house today.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus calls people others have written off.

Key Truth

The man who once collected money for Rome would one day write the Gospel that tells the world about the King.

X. DINNER WITH SINNERS

Matthew 9:10 — At Matthew's House

“While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples.”

Matthew did not keep Jesus to himself.

He threw a dinner at his house.

And he invited his friends.

Many tax collectors and sinners came.

These were the only friends Matthew had.

Respectable people would not spend time with him.

In that culture, eating with someone was a sign of friendship and acceptance.

Jesus sat down and ate with them.

Cross References

Mark 2:15

> Later, Jesus was eating at Levi's house. Many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Jesus and His followers. There were many of these people who followed Him.

Luke 5:29

> Then Levi gave a big dinner for Jesus at his house. Many tax collectors and other people were eating with them.

Luke 15:1

> Many tax collectors and sinners were coming to listen to Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

People who meet Jesus want their friends to meet Him too.

Application

Like Matthew, you can:

- Open your home.
- Invite your friends.
- Bring people together around Jesus.
- Share what He has done for you.
- Reach people others avoid.

XI. WHY DOES YOUR TEACHER EAT WITH SINNERS?

Matthew 9:11 — The Pharisees Complain

“When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, ‘Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’”

The **Pharisees** were watching.

They did not go to Jesus directly.

They asked His disciples.

“Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

The Pharisees believed holy people should stay away from sinners.

They thought being near sinners would make them unclean.

They could not understand why a teacher of God would sit with such people.

Cross References

Mark 2:16

> When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw Him eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked His followers, “Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Luke 5:30

> But the Pharisees and their teachers of the law complained to His followers, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

Luke 15:2

> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to complain, “This man welcomes sinners and even eats with them.”

Spiritual Warning

Religious pride keeps sinners at a distance; grace draws them near.

XII. THE DOCTOR AND THE SICK

Matthew 9:12 — Not the Healthy

“On hearing this, Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.’”

Jesus heard the question.

And He answered with a simple picture.

A doctor goes to the sick.

No one complains when a doctor spends time with sick people.

That is what doctors are for.

Jesus is the Great Physician.

He came for people who know they are sick with sin.

There is also a hidden warning here.

The Pharisees thought they were **healthy.**

But they were sick too.

They just did not know it.

Cross References

Mark 2:17

> When Jesus heard this, He said to them, “Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. I did not come to call good people, but sinners.”

Luke 5:31

> Jesus answered them, “Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do.”

Jeremiah 8:22

> Is there no medicine in Gilead? Is there no doctor there? Then why are the wounds of my people not healed?

Spiritual Principle

Only those who know they are sick will come to the Doctor.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is not ashamed to be seen with sinners, because sinners are the reason He came.

XIII. MERCY, NOT SACRIFICE

Matthew 9:13 — I Came to Call Sinners

“Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Jesus told the Pharisees to **“Go and learn.”**

This was a bold thing to say to experts in the Scriptures.

It was as if He said, **“You know your Bible, but you have not understood it.”**

He quoted Hosea 6:6.

“I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

God commanded sacrifices in the Old Testament.

But sacrifices without mercy were empty.

God wanted hearts that showed love and compassion.

The Pharisees were careful about religious rules.

But they had no mercy for sinners.

Then Jesus explained His mission.

“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Cross References

Hosea 6:6

> I want your faithful love more than your sacrifices. I want you to know Me more than I want your burnt offerings.

Luke 5:32

> I have not come to call good people, but sinners, to change their hearts and lives.

1 Timothy 1:15

> Here is a true saying that everyone should accept completely: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the worst of them.

Spiritual Principle

God values mercy over religious ritual.

Key Truth

The only people Jesus cannot help are those who think they do not need Him.

XIV. A QUESTION ABOUT FASTING

Matthew 9:14 — John's Disciples Ask

“Then John’s disciples came and asked Him, ‘Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?’”

Now a different group came with a question.

John's disciples.

These were followers of John the Baptist.

John was in prison.

His disciples were likely fasting and mourning.

The Pharisees fasted twice a week.

But Jesus' disciples were eating and celebrating.

To John's disciples, this seemed strange.

Cross References

Mark 2:18

> John's followers and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came to Jesus and asked, “Why do John's followers and the Pharisees' followers fast, but Your followers do not?”

Luke 5:33

> They said to Jesus, “John's followers often fast and pray, and so do the followers of the Pharisees. But Your followers eat and drink all the time.”

Luke 18:12

> I fast twice a week, and I give a tenth of everything I get.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual practices are good, but they must fit God's purpose for the moment.

XV. THE BRIDEGROOM IS HERE

Matthew 9:15 — The Guests Do Not Mourn

“Jesus answered, ‘How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while He is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away, and then they will fast.’”

Jesus answered with a picture of a wedding.

Jewish weddings were joyful celebrations that could last a whole week.

During that time, no one fasted.

It would be out of place to mourn at a wedding.

Jesus called Himself **the bridegroom.**

In the Old Testament, God is pictured as the husband of His people.

Now Jesus takes that role.

While He was with His disciples, it was a time of joy.

But Jesus also gave a hint of what was coming.

“The bridegroom will be taken away.”

This points to His death.

Then His disciples would fast.

Cross References

Mark 2:20

> But the time will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

Luke 5:35

> But the time will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

John 3:29

> The bride belongs only to the groom. The friend who helps the groom waits and listens for him. He is very happy when he hears the groom's voice. That is the same joy I have, and my joy is now complete.

Spiritual Principle

The presence of Jesus brings joy.

Key Truth

This is the first time in Matthew that Jesus hints at His death.

XVI. NEW CLOTH ON AN OLD GARMENT

Matthew 9:16 — The Tear Gets Worse

“No one patches an old garment with unshrunk cloth, because the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse.”

Jesus gave another picture.

New cloth that has not been washed will shrink.

If you sew it onto an old garment, the first time it is washed, the new patch will shrink and pull away.

The tear will be worse than before.

Jesus was saying that He did not come just to patch up the old religious system.

He came to bring something completely new.

Cross References

Mark 2:21

> No one sews a patch of new cloth on an old coat. If he does, the patch will shrink and pull away from the coat, and the hole will become worse.

Luke 5:36

> Jesus told them this story: “No one tears a piece of cloth from a new coat to cover a hole in an old coat. If he does, he ruins the new coat, and the patch will not match the old coat.”

Isaiah 64:6

> All of us have become like something unclean. Even all our good works are like filthy rags.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus does not patch up old lives; He makes them new.

XVII. NEW WINE IN NEW WINESKINS

Matthew 9:17 — Both Are Preserved

“Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will spill out, and the skins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

In Bible times, wine was stored in containers made from animal skins.

New skins could stretch.

Old skins were dry and stiff.

New wine was still fermenting.

It gave off gas and expanded.

If you put new wine into an old skin, the old skin would burst.

Both the wine and the skin would be lost.

Jesus brings **new wine** — the life of His kingdom.

It cannot be contained in the old, stiff forms of man-made religion.

It needs **new wineskins** — new hearts and a new way of life.

Cross References

Mark 2:22

> No one pours new wine into old leather bags. If he does, the new wine will break the bags, and the wine will be lost along with the bags. New wine should be put into new leather bags.

Luke 5:38

> New wine must be put into new leather bags.

Job 32:19

> Inside I am like bottled-up wine. I am like new wine bags ready to burst.

Spiritual Principle

The new life Jesus gives requires a new heart to hold it.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus did not come to improve religion; He came to give new life.

XVIII. A SYNAGOGUE LEADER'S DAUGHTER

Matthew 9:18 — “My Daughter Has Just Died”

“While Jesus was speaking, a synagogue leader came and knelt before Him, saying, ‘My daughter has just died. But come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live.’”

While Jesus was still speaking, a man came.

He was a **synagogue leader.**

Mark and Luke tell us his name was **Jairus.**

He was an important man in the community.

Many religious leaders opposed Jesus.

But this man **knelt before Him.**

His daughter had just died.

Mark and Luke tell us that when he first came, she was dying, and then word came that she had died.

Matthew gives a shorter account.

But the man's faith was clear.

“Come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live.”

He believed Jesus could do what no doctor could do.

Cross References

Mark 5:23

> He begged Jesus, saying, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put Your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.”

Luke 8:41

> A man named Jairus came to Jesus. He was a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house.

2 Kings 4:32

> When Elisha came into the house, the boy was lying dead on his bed.

Spiritual Principle

Desperate need can lead to great faith.

Key Truth

Grief brought a proud man to his knees before Jesus.

XIX. JESUS WENT WITH HIM

Matthew 9:19 — The Disciples Followed

“Jesus got up and went with him, and so did His disciples.”

Jesus did not delay.

He **got up and went with him.**

Jesus was willing to go to the house of a grieving father.

His disciples went too.

They were about to see something they had never seen before.

Cross References

Mark 5:24

> So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed Jesus and pushed close around Him.

Luke 8:42

Jairus had only one daughter. She was about twelve years old, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the crowds pushed close around Him.

1 Kings 17:19

Elijah said to her, “Give me your son.” He took the boy from her, carried him upstairs to the room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus goes with us into our places of grief.

XX. A WOMAN TOUCHES HIS CLOAK

Matthew 9:20 — Twelve Years of Suffering

“Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind Him and touched the edge of His cloak.”

On the way, there was an interruption.

A woman had been **bleeding for twelve years.**

The girl Jesus was going to see was about twelve years old.

This woman had suffered for as long as that girl had been alive.

Under the Law of Moses, her condition made her ceremonially unclean.

Anyone she touched would become unclean.

She could not worship at the temple.

She was likely alone, ashamed, and poor.

Mark tells us she had spent everything on doctors and only got worse.

She **came up behind Him.**

She did not want to be noticed.

And she **touched the edge of His cloak.**

This was probably the tassel that Jewish men wore on the corners of their garments as a reminder of God's commands.

Cross References

Mark 5:27

She had heard about Jesus. So she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His coat.

Luke 8:44

> She came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of His coat, and right away her bleeding stopped.

Leviticus 15:25

> If a woman has bleeding for many days... she will be unclean for as long as the bleeding continues.

Spiritual Principle

No one is too ashamed or too unclean to reach out to Jesus.

XXI. “IF I ONLY TOUCH HIS GARMENT”

Matthew 9:21 — Her Quiet Faith

“She said to herself, ‘If I only touch His garment, I will be healed.’”

She did not say this out loud.

She **said it to herself.**

Her faith was quiet.

It was hidden.

But it was real.

She believed that even a touch of Jesus' clothing would heal her.

Her faith may have been mixed with some misunderstanding.

But she was reaching toward the right Person.

And Jesus honored her faith.

Cross References

Mark 5:28

> She thought, “If I can just touch His clothes, I will be healed.”

Luke 8:47

> When the woman saw that she could not hide, she came forward, shaking with fear, and fell down before Jesus. In front of everyone, she told why she had touched Him and how she had been healed right away.

2 Kings 13:21

> Some people were burying a man... They threw the body into Elisha's grave. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came back to life and stood up.

Spiritual Principle

Even small, imperfect faith in Jesus can receive His power.

Key Truth

It is not the strength of our faith that heals.

It is the strength of the One we put our faith in.

XXII. “TAKE COURAGE, DAUGHTER”

Matthew 9:22 — Your Faith Has Made You Well

“Jesus turned, saw her, and said, ‘Take courage, daughter. Your faith has made you well.’ And the woman was healed at that very moment.”

The woman tried to stay hidden.

But **Jesus turned** and **saw her.**

He did not let her slip away unnoticed.

He wanted her to receive more than physical healing.

He spoke to her personally.

“Take courage, daughter.”

This is a tender word of family love.

For twelve years, people had kept their distance from her.

Now Jesus calls her a member of God's family.

“Your faith has made you well.”

The word **well** can also mean **saved.**

She was healed in body.

And she was restored in her whole life.

Cross References

Mark 5:34

> Jesus said to her, “Dear woman, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. You are healed of your sickness.”

Luke 8:48

> Jesus said to her, “Dear woman, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

Mark 10:52

> Jesus said, “Go. Your faith has healed you.” Right away the man could see again, and he followed Jesus on the road.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus heals not only our bodies but our shame.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The woman reached for the edge of His cloak; Jesus gave her the center of His attention.

XXIII. THE NOISY CROWD

Matthew 9:23 — The Flute Players

“When Jesus entered the synagogue leader’s house and saw the noisy crowd and the flute players,”

Jesus arrived at the house.

The mourning had already begun.

In Jewish custom, families hired professional mourners and flute players at a death.

Even the poorest family was expected to hire at least two flute players and one wailing woman.

The house was filled with noise, weeping, and sad music.

Cross References

Mark 5:38

> They came to the house of the synagogue leader, and Jesus saw many people crying loudly. There was a lot of confusion.

Luke 8:52

> Everyone was crying and feeling sad because the girl was dead. But Jesus said, “Stop crying. She is not dead, only asleep.”

Jeremiah 9:17

> This is what the LORD who commands armies says: “Think about what is happening! Call for the women who are paid to cry at funerals. Send for those who are best at it.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus walks into the noise of our grief.

XXIV. “NOT DEAD BUT ASLEEP”

Matthew 9:24 — They Laughed at Him

“He said, ‘Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.’ But they laughed at Him.”

Jesus told the mourners to leave.

“The girl is not dead but asleep.”

The girl really was dead.

But Jesus was speaking of death as something temporary.

For Jesus, raising someone from death was as easy as waking someone from sleep.

The mourners **laughed at Him.**

Their tears turned instantly into mocking laughter.

They knew she was dead.

They did not know who was standing in front of them.

Cross References

Mark 5:39

> Jesus went into the house and said to them, “Why are you crying and making so much noise? The child is not dead, only asleep.”

Luke 8:53

> The people laughed at Jesus, because they knew the girl was dead.

John 11:11

> After Jesus said this, He added, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him.”

Spiritual Principle

For those who belong to Jesus, death is like sleep.

Key Truth

The world may laugh at the promise of resurrection.

But Jesus has the last word over death.

XXV. THE GIRL GOT UP

Matthew 9:25 — He Took Her by the Hand

“After the crowd had been put outside, He went in, took the girl by the hand, and she got up.”

Jesus had the mocking crowd **put outside.**

Mark tells us He took only the girl's parents and three disciples: Peter, James, and John.

Then Jesus **took the girl by the hand.**

Under the law, touching a dead body made a person unclean.

But once again, Jesus' touch did not make Him unclean.

It brought life.

And she got up.

Cross References

Mark 5:41

> Taking the child by the hand, Jesus said to her, “Talitha koum!” This means, “Little girl, I tell you, get up!”

Luke 8:54

> But Jesus took her by the hand and called to her, “Child, get up!”

1 Kings 17:22

> The LORD answered Elijah's prayer. The boy's life came back into him, and he lived.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus has power over death.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Death is no match for the One who holds the keys to life.

XXVI. THE NEWS SPREAD

Matthew 9:26 — Throughout That Region

“News of this spread throughout that region.”

A dead girl was alive.

Her family knew it.

Her neighbors knew it.

The mourners who laughed knew it.

Soon the whole region knew it.

Something this great could not be kept quiet.

Cross References

Mark 5:43

> Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell people about this. Then He told them to give the girl something to eat.

Luke 8:56

> The girl's parents were amazed, but Jesus told them not to tell anyone what had happened.

Mark 1:28

> And the news about Jesus spread quickly everywhere in the area of Galilee.

Spiritual Principle

What Jesus does cannot stay hidden for long.

XXVII. TWO BLIND MEN

Matthew 9:27 — “Son of David, Have Mercy on Us!”

“As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, calling out, ‘Son of David, have mercy on us!’”

Two blind men **followed** Jesus.

They could not see Him.

But they knew where He was.

They kept calling out.

“Son of David, have mercy on us!”

Son of David was a title for the Messiah.

These blind men could not see with their eyes.

But they saw who Jesus was more clearly than many who had perfect eyesight.

They asked for **mercy.**

They did not demand.

They did not claim to deserve anything.

They simply cried out for mercy.

Cross References

Mark 10:47

> When he heard that Jesus from Nazareth was passing by, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Luke 18:38

> The blind man shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Matthew 20:30

> Two blind men were sitting by the road. When they heard Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

Spiritual Principle

The cry for mercy is a prayer Jesus loves to answer.

Key Truth

Sometimes the blind see Jesus more clearly than those who can see.

XXVIII. “DO YOU BELIEVE?”

Matthew 9:28 — “Yes, Lord”

“When He had gone indoors, the blind men came to Him, and He asked them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ they replied.”

Jesus did not stop on the road.

He went **indoors.**

The blind men followed Him all the way inside.

They would not give up.

Then Jesus asked them a question.

“Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

Jesus wanted their faith to be clear.

Not faith in a general idea.

Faith in Him.

“Yes, Lord.”

Their answer was simple and direct.

Cross References

Mark 10:51

> Jesus asked him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man answered, “Teacher, I want to see.”

Matthew 20:32

> Jesus stopped and called to them. He asked, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

Mark 9:23

> Jesus said to the father, “You said, ‘If You can!’ All things are possible for the one who believes.”

Spiritual Principle

Persistence and faith go together.

Application

Jesus still asks each of us:

- Do you believe I am able?
- Do you believe I can forgive you?
- Do you believe I can change you?
- Do you believe I can help you?
- Do you believe I can do what I have promised?

XXIX. ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH

Matthew 9:29 — He Touched Their Eyes

“Then He touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith let it be done to you.’”

Jesus **touched their eyes.**

Again, His touch brought healing.

Then He spoke.

“According to your faith let it be done to you.”

Their faith did not create the power.

Their faith received the power.

They believed Jesus was able.

And He did what they believed He could do.

Cross References

Matthew 20:34

> Jesus felt sorry for the men and touched their eyes. Right away they could see, and they followed Him.

Luke 18:42

> Jesus said to him, “You can see again. Your faith has healed you.”

Isaiah 42:7

> You will open the eyes of the blind. You will free prisoners from their prisons and bring out those who sit in darkness.

Spiritual Principle

Faith is the hand that receives what Jesus offers.

XXX. THEIR EYES WERE OPENED

Matthew 9:30 — A Stern Warning

“Their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them sternly, ‘See that no one knows about this.’”

Their eyes were opened.

For the first time, they could see.

The first face they saw was the face of Jesus.

Isaiah had promised that when God came to save His people, the eyes of the blind would be opened.

Jesus was fulfilling that promise.

Then Jesus **warned them sternly** not to tell anyone.

He did not want crowds coming to Him only for miracles.

He also knew that people had wrong ideas about the Messiah.

Many expected a political king.

Jesus wanted to reveal Himself in His own way and in His own time.

Cross References

Mark 7:36

> Jesus told the people not to tell anyone. But the more He told them not to, the more they told about it.

Isaiah 35:5

> Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will hear.

John 9:7

> Jesus said to him, “Go and wash in the pool of Siloam.” So the man went, washed, and came back seeing.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus fulfills the promises of God in His own way and in His own time.

XXXI. THEY SPREAD THE NEWS

Matthew 9:31 — All Over That Region

“But they went out and spread the news about Him all over that region.”

The men disobeyed.

They told everyone.

We can understand their excitement.

But they did not do what Jesus said.

Their disobedience may have made Jesus' work harder.

Mark tells us that after another healed man spread the news, Jesus could no longer enter towns openly.

Even good intentions do not replace obedience.

Cross References

Mark 1:45

> But the man left and began telling everyone. He spread the news about what happened, so Jesus could no longer enter a town openly.

Luke 5:15

> But the news about Jesus spread even more. Many people came to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

Psalm 107:22

> Let them offer sacrifices to thank Him and tell about what He has done with joyful songs.

Spiritual Principle

Obedience is better than enthusiasm without obedience.

XXXII. A MAN WHO COULD NOT SPEAK

Matthew 9:32 — Brought to Jesus

“While they were leaving, a man who was mute and demon-possessed was brought to Jesus.”

As the two men who had been blind were leaving, another man was **brought to Jesus.**

This man was **mute.**

He could not speak.

And his condition was caused by a **demon.**

Not every sickness is caused by demons.

The Bible makes a clear difference between sickness and demon possession.

But in this case, the man's silence was the work of an evil spirit.

Cross References

Matthew 12:22

> Then some people brought to Jesus a man who had a demon in him. The man was blind and could not talk. Jesus healed him, so the man could talk and see.

Luke 11:14

> Jesus was forcing out a demon that made a man unable to talk. When the demon came out, the man was able to speak, and the people were amazed.

Mark 9:17

> A man from the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought my son to You. He has an evil spirit in him that keeps him from talking.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is able to free those bound by the enemy.

XXXIII. NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER BEEN SEEN

Matthew 9:33 — The Mute Man Spoke

“When the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, ‘Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.’”

Jesus drove out the demon.

And **the man spoke.**

The crowds were **amazed.**

“Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”

Think about all they had seen in this chapter.

A paralyzed man walked.

A woman was healed after twelve years.

A dead girl was raised.

Two blind men saw.

A mute man spoke.

Israel had seen great things in its history.

But never anything like Jesus.

Cross References

Mark 7:37

> The people were completely amazed and said, “Jesus does everything well. He even makes deaf people hear and people who can't talk able to speak.”

Matthew 12:23

> All the people were amazed and said, “Could this man be the Son of David?”

Isaiah 35:6

> Crippled people will jump like deer, and those who cannot talk will shout with joy.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus does what no one else has ever done.

Key Truth

The signs Isaiah promised were happening right in front of them.

XXXIV. THE PRINCE OF DEMONS

Matthew 9:34 — The Pharisees' Accusation

“But the Pharisees said, ‘It is by the prince of demons that He drives out demons.’”

The crowd was amazed.

But the **Pharisees** were not.

They could not deny that the miracles were real.

So they gave them an evil explanation.

“It is by the prince of demons that He drives out demons.”

They said Jesus was working with Satan.

This is one of the most serious accusations in the Bible.

They saw the work of God's Spirit and called it the work of the devil.

In Matthew 12, Jesus will answer this accusation and give a strong warning.

Cross References

Matthew 12:24

> When the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man uses the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons, to force demons out of people.”

Mark 3:22

> The teachers of the law who came from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul in Him! He uses the power of the ruler of demons to force demons out of people.”

Luke 11:15

> But some of them said, “Jesus uses the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons, to force demons out of people.”

Spiritual Warning

A hardened heart can see God's work and still reject it.

Key Truth

Miracles alone do not change hearts.

Some people will refuse to believe no matter what they see.

XXXV. JESUS WENT THROUGH ALL THE TOWNS

Matthew 9:35 — Teaching, Preaching, Healing

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness.”

This verse is almost the same as Matthew 4:23.

Matthew uses these two verses like bookends.

Between them are the Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5–7 and the miracles in chapters 8–9.

Jesus' ministry had three parts.

Teaching — explaining God's Word.

Preaching — announcing the good news of the kingdom.

Healing — showing God's power and compassion.

And He went to **all** the towns and villages.

Not only to the big cities.

To the small places too.

Cross References

Mark 6:6

> Then Jesus went around to the other villages in that area and taught.

Matthew 4:23

> Jesus went everywhere in Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, telling the good news about the kingdom, and healing all the people's diseases and sicknesses.

Luke 8:1

> After this, Jesus traveled through towns and villages, telling the good news about the kingdom of God. The twelve apostles were with Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' ministry reached every place and met every need.

XXXVI. SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD

Matthew 9:36 — He Had Compassion on Them

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

This is one of the most beautiful verses in Matthew.

Jesus saw the crowds.

Some leaders see crowds as an audience.

Some see crowds as a problem.

Jesus saw people.

And **He had compassion on them.**

The word means a deep feeling from the inside.

His heart was moved.

He saw that they were:

Harassed — troubled, worn out, beaten down.

Helpless — thrown down, with no strength to get up.

Like sheep without a shepherd — lost, unprotected, and confused.

Their religious leaders were not caring for them.

They needed a true Shepherd.

Cross References

Mark 6:34

> When Jesus got out of the boat, He saw a large crowd. He felt sorry for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

Numbers 27:17

> ...so that the LORD's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.

Ezekiel 34:5

> The sheep were scattered because there was no shepherd. They became food for every wild animal.

Spiritual Principle

Compassion sees people the way Jesus sees them.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus did not look at the crowds and see a number; He looked and saw sheep who needed a Shepherd.

XXXVII. THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL

Matthew 9:37 — The Workers Are Few

“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.’”

Jesus turned to His disciples.

He changed the picture from sheep to a harvest.

The harvest is plentiful.

There were many people ready to receive the good news.

The field was full.

But the workers are few.

There were not enough people to bring in the harvest.

In farming, a harvest must be gathered at the right time.

If it is not gathered, it will be lost.

Cross References

Luke 10:2

> He said to them, “There are a great many people to harvest, but there are only a few workers. So pray to God, who owns the harvest, that He will send more workers to help gather His harvest.”

John 4:35

> You say, “Four more months to wait before we gather the grain.” But I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields. They are ready for harvesting now.

Joel 3:13

> Swing the sickle, because the harvest is ready.

Spiritual Principle

The problem is never the harvest; it is the shortage of workers.

Key Truth

There are more people ready to hear about Jesus than there are people willing to tell them.

XXXVIII. PRAY FOR WORKERS

Matthew 9:38 — The Lord of the Harvest

“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”

What did Jesus tell His disciples to do about the shortage?

He did not first tell them to make a plan.

He told them to **pray.**

Ask the Lord of the harvest.

God is the **Lord of the harvest.**

The harvest belongs to Him.

The workers belong to Him.

He is the One who sends.

Notice what happens next.

In Matthew 10, the very disciples who were told to pray for workers are sent out as workers.

Often, the people who pray for workers become the answer to their own prayers.

Cross References

Luke 10:2

> He said to them, “There are a great many people to harvest, but there are only a few workers. So pray to God, who owns the harvest, that He will send more workers to help gather His harvest.”

Acts 13:2

> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart Barnabas and Saul for Me to do a special work I have chosen them for.”

2 Thessalonians 3:1

> And now, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the Lord's message will spread quickly and be honored, just as it was with you.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer comes before mission.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Be careful when you pray for workers — God may send you.

XXXIX. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM MATTHEW 9

1. Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Sins

Healing the paralyzed man proves His divine power.

Principle:

Only God can forgive sins, and Jesus forgives sins.

---

2. Jesus Calls the Unlikely

Matthew the tax collector shows that God's grace extends to the rejected.

Principle:

No one is too far gone for Jesus to call.

---

3. Mercy Over Sacrifice

God desires love and compassion, not empty rituals.

Principle:

Religion without mercy misses the heart of God.

---

4. Faith Brings Healing

Both the bleeding woman and the blind men received healing through faith.

Principle:

Faith reaches out, and Jesus responds.

---

5. Jesus Conquers Death

Raising the girl shows His power even over the grave.

Principle:

For those who belong to Jesus, death is not the end.

---

6. Compassion Fuels Mission

Jesus saw the crowds as lost sheep and called His followers to pray for workers in the harvest.

Principle:

When we see people the way Jesus sees them, we will join His mission.

XL. THE MIRACLES OF MATTHEW 9

Matthew 9 records several miracles, each showing a different side of Jesus' power.

The Paralyzed Man

Authority over sin and sickness.

The Bleeding Woman

Power over long-term suffering and shame.

The Synagogue Leader's Daughter

Power over death.

The Two Blind Men

Power to open eyes.

The Mute Man

Power over demons and the power to restore speech.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

From sin to sickness to shame to death, there is nothing Jesus cannot overcome.

XLI. JESUS AND SINNERS

Matthew 9 shows how Jesus treats people others rejected.

The Paralyzed Man

Jesus called him **“son.”**

Matthew the Tax Collector

Jesus called him to follow.

Tax Collectors and Sinners

Jesus ate with them.

The Bleeding Woman

Jesus called her **“daughter.”**

The Crowds

Jesus had compassion on them.

Key Truth

The people the world pushes away, Jesus draws near.

XLII. THE OLD AND THE NEW

Jesus' teaching about cloth and wineskins shows that He brings something new.

The Old

- Man-made rules.
- Religious rituals without mercy.
- Fasting to look holy.
- Keeping sinners at a distance.

The New

- A living relationship with Jesus.
- Mercy and compassion.
- Joy in the presence of the Bridegroom.
- Welcoming sinners to repentance.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus does not patch up the old; He makes all things new.

XLIII. WHAT MATTHEW 9 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

Matthew 9 presents Jesus as:

The Forgiver of Sins

He has authority on earth to forgive sins.

The Knower of Hearts

He knows our thoughts.

The Great Physician

He came for the sick.

The Bridegroom

His presence brings joy.

The Giver of New Life

He brings new wine.

The Lord Over Death

He raised the girl to life.

The Son of David

The promised Messiah.

The Compassionate Shepherd

He sees the lost and is moved.

The Lord of the Harvest

He sends workers into His field.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The One who forgives sin, heals the sick, and raises the dead is the same One who looks at the lost with compassion and sends us to reach them.

XLIV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why did Jesus forgive the paralyzed man's sins before healing him?

Because the man's greatest need was forgiveness.

His body needed healing, but his soul needed it more.

Jesus also used the healing to prove that He had authority to forgive sins.

Question 2

Why did the teachers of the law think Jesus was blaspheming?

They knew that only God can forgive sins.

When Jesus forgave sins, He was acting as God.

They were right that only God can forgive, but wrong to reject Jesus, because He is God.

Question 3

Why were tax collectors hated?

They worked for Rome and collected taxes from their own people.

Many cheated and took more than they should.

They were seen as traitors and sinners.

Question 4

What did Matthew give up to follow Jesus?

He left his tax booth, his income, and his way of life.

Unlike the fishermen, he could not easily go back.

He left everything to follow Jesus.

Question 5

What did Jesus mean by “I desire mercy, not sacrifice”?

He was quoting Hosea 6:6.

God wants hearts of love and compassion more than religious rituals.

The Pharisees kept rules but had no mercy for sinners.

Question 6

Why didn't Jesus' disciples fast while He was with them?

Jesus is the Bridegroom.

While He was with them, it was a time of joy, like a wedding.

He said they would fast after He was taken away.

Question 7

What do the pictures of new cloth and new wine teach?

Jesus did not come to patch up old religion.

He came to bring something completely new.

New life requires a new heart to hold it.

Question 8

What was special about the woman who touched Jesus' cloak?

She had suffered for twelve years and was considered unclean.

She reached out in quiet faith.

Jesus healed her, noticed her, and called her **“daughter.”**

Question 9

Why did Jesus say the girl was asleep?

She was truly dead, but for Jesus, death is temporary.

Raising her was as easy for Him as waking someone from sleep.

Question 10

What does the title “Son of David” mean?

It is a title for the Messiah, the promised King from David's family.

The blind men recognized Jesus as the Messiah even though they could not see.

Question 11

Why did the Pharisees say Jesus drove out demons by the prince of demons?

They could not deny the miracles.

So they gave them an evil explanation.

This showed how hard their hearts had become.

Question 12

What did Jesus see when He looked at the crowds?

He saw people who were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

He had compassion on them.

Question 13

What did Jesus tell His disciples to do about the harvest?

He told them to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.

In the next chapter, He sends them out as workers.

Question 14

What should Matthew 9 change about the way Christians live today?

Matthew 9 should cause believers to live:

- Grateful for the forgiveness of sins.
- Bringing others to Jesus.
- Welcoming people others reject.
- Showing mercy rather than religious pride.
- Rejoicing in the presence of Jesus.
- Reaching out in faith.
- Trusting Jesus even in death.
- Seeing people with compassion.
- Praying for workers and being willing to go.

XLV. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Matthew 9 asks several important questions.

Have My Sins Been Forgiven?

That is my greatest need.

Who Am I Carrying to Jesus?

Who are the friends I am bringing to Him in prayer?

Do I Avoid People Jesus Would Welcome?

Who are the “tax collectors and sinners” in my world?

Do I Know That I Am Sick and Need the Doctor?

Or do I think I am healthy?

Am I Showing Mercy or Only Following Rules?

Am I Trying to Patch My Old Life, or Have I Received New Life?

Is There Something I Have Suffered with for a Long Time?

Have I reached out to Jesus?

Do I Believe Jesus Is Able?

Do I See People with the Compassion of Jesus?

Am I Praying for Workers, and Am I Willing to Be One?

XLVI. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Jesus Came for the Sick”

The Pharisees could not understand it.

Why would a holy teacher sit at a table with tax collectors?

Why would He let an unclean woman touch Him?

Why would He touch the eyes of blind beggars?

Why would He forgive a paralyzed man before he had done anything to deserve it?

Jesus gave the answer in one sentence:

“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”

Jesus did not come for people who think they are good enough.

He came for people who know they are not.

He came for the paralyzed.

For the sinners.

For the ashamed.

For the grieving.

For the blind.

For the oppressed.

This creates a powerful principle.

The first step toward Jesus is admitting that we need Him.

The proud stay away.

The broken come close.

Principle:

Jesus never turns away a sinner who comes to Him; He only passes by those who think they do not need Him.

XLVII. FINAL APPLICATION

Matthew Chapter 9 is full of people in need.

A man who cannot walk.

A man who is despised.

A father whose daughter has died.

A woman who has suffered for twelve years.

Two men who cannot see.

A man who cannot speak.

Crowds who are worn out and lost.

And in every scene, Jesus meets the need.

He forgives.

He calls.

He heals.

He restores.

He raises the dead.

He opens eyes.

He sets captives free.

But the chapter also shows people who refuse Him.

Teachers who call Him a blasphemer.

Pharisees who complain about His friends.

Mourners who laugh at Him.

Religious leaders who say His power comes from the devil.

Matthew 9 therefore reminds us:

Jesus has all authority.

And Jesus has a heart full of compassion.

He has the power to help.

And He has the desire to help.

Then the chapter ends by turning to us.

The harvest is ready.

The crowds are lost.

The workers are few.

The story of Matthew 9 does not end with:

A miracle.

A crowd.

Or an argument.

It ends with:

A Savior full of compassion.

A world full of need.

And a call to pray and go.

The same call still stands:

Come to Jesus for forgiveness.

Bring others to Him.

Show mercy.

Reach out in faith.

See people the way Jesus sees them.

Pray for workers.

Be willing to go.

And until He returns:

Keep praying.

Keep reaching out.

Keep showing mercy.

Keep working in the harvest.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Jesus, who has authority on earth to forgive sins.

Thank You that our greatest need has been met in Him.

Lord Jesus, thank You for saying to sinners like us, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Give us faith like the friends who carried the paralyzed man.

Help us bring the people we love to You.

Thank You for calling Matthew from his tax booth.

Thank You that You call people the world rejects.

Keep us from the pride of the Pharisees.

Teach us to show mercy instead of looking down on others.

Help us see that we are sick and need You, the Great Physician.

Thank You that You are the Bridegroom, and that Your presence brings joy.

Do not let us try to patch up our old lives.

Make us new.

Give us new hearts to hold the new life You give.

Thank You for noticing the woman who reached out in quiet faith.

Thank You that no one is too ashamed or too unclean to come to You.

Thank You that You have power over death.

When we grieve, remind us that for those who belong to You, death is like sleep.

Son of David, have mercy on us.

Open our eyes to see You clearly.

Set free those who are bound by the enemy.

Give us Your compassion for the crowds.

Help us see people as sheep who need a Shepherd.

Lord of the harvest, send out workers into Your harvest field.

And if You choose to send us, make us willing to go.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” — Matthew 9:36

Central Truth

Jesus has authority to forgive sins and power over sickness and death, and His heart of mercy calls sinners to Himself and sends His followers into the harvest.

Matthew 9 in One Sentence

Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man, calls a tax collector and eats with sinners, teaches that He brings new life, heals a suffering woman, raises a dead girl, opens blind eyes, frees a mute man, and, filled with compassion for the lost, calls His followers to pray for workers in the harvest.