

Matthew chapter 9

Matthew 9:13 ... 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.'

- ***1 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city (Capernaum in Galilee). 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed (or couch, bed for poor people).*** From the other Gospels we learn:—(1) That He was teaching ([Luke 5:17](#)) from the upper room of a house, while the people stood listening in the courtyard. (2) That the court-yard was crowded, so that even the gateway leading into the street was filled ([Mark 2:2](#)). (3) That among the hearers were Pharisees and Doctors of the Law, who had come, not only from “every village of Galilee and Judea,” but also “from Jerusalem.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer (rejoice, take heart, be encouraged); your sins are forgiven you."

- What faith did Jesus see? ***Luke 5:18 Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him.***
- ***19 And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.***
- No one had healed a paralytic before Jesus. Jesus also considered their faith that they knew He was able to heal him.

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

- This word is mentioned twice in the Old Testament and 12 times in the New Testament. In all the 12 times in the New Testament it is translated from the Greek word blasphemia. It means to Profane, vilify, insult, or speaks evil of a person.

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

- They were in essence saying that Jesus was speaking evil against God, which was impossible?
- Even after all they had seen Him do and after all He had preached they considered Him a blasphemer. There was no doubt that He was the coming Messiah spoken of. This was the evil in their hearts.
- Jesus had as a man retained the godly, divine ability to look into people's hearts and know their true thoughts. ***Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account***
- ***Luke 8:17 "For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.***

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

- Which one is easier for your small brains and your evil hearts to comprehend? How can I make it simpler for you to understand?
- 6 **"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" --then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 7 And he arose and departed to his house.**
- Jesus wanted to show them that He had the power to heal the spiritual as well as the physical. This was to validate His mission as being about His Father's work.
- Jesus looked into his heart and saw the anguish that sin had caused to his soul and body.
- Jesus most probably saw a repentant heart. Not only did He heal him physically but his sins were also forgiven. The focus was his sin being forgiven.
- Matthew shares this account to further validate Christ's messiah-ship. **Isaiah 53:5.**
- Compare **John 9:1 now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.**

6 **"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"**

- I'm not a mere man. I'm both man and God!
- I'm fully mandated to forgive sins.--**then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."**
- He had the power against physical sickness.
- He had the power to restore.
- He had the power to make well.
- He was both God and man!

7 **And he arose and departed to his house.**

- He was a new man.
- Free from sin.
- Free from infirmity.
- He was free to go and start a new life. **John 8:36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**

Matthew 9:8 now when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

- This was the whole purpose for Christ's physical display of power. That God would be glorified.

Matthew 9:9 ¶ As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew (Mark 2:14 calls him Levi) sitting at the tax office (he was an employee of the roman government). And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

- Matthew had probably heard all the testimonies about Jesus.
- He probably took time to examine his own heart and realised that he was a sinner.
- When God made the call Matthew was ready to respond immediately.
- He left all, his office, his livelihood, his salary, his sustenance to follow Christ.

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.

- Matthew's actions inspired a mini revival among his peers and fellow sinners to also find Christ and sit with Him.
- Are our actions as Christians drawing and inspiring others to follow Christ?

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

- The tax collectors were Jews who collected taxes from fellow Jews for the Roman Empire. They made their living by charging an extra amount. Some of them made more than a living. They levied any amount they could and thus became well to do. They were considered traitors who became wealthy by collaborating with Roman authorities at the expense of their own people.
- But the sinners associated with tax collectors were in a special class. These were people who deliberately and persistently transgressed the requirements of the law. Included in this group would be money-lenders who charged interest on loans advanced to fellow Jews. This was a clear violation of the law of God stated in Leviticus 25:36-38.
- Also in this group of sinners might be prostitutes who made their living by their ill-gotten gains. These were individuals who sold themselves to a life of sin in deliberate disregard of the law of God.
- Yet, Jesus apparently associated with such people at dinner parties. The Pharisees charged that Jesus was "a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Luke 7:34). Even though Jesus belonged to the middle class, he reached out to people of the lower class. On one occasion Jesus said to some religious leaders in Jerusalem, "The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you" (Matthew 21:31).

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

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

Qn. Why did Christ desire mercy but not sacrifice?

What is God's mercy? "God's mercy is his tenderhearted, loving compassion for his people.

Mercy to Jesus meant:

- That he would be their ransom, propitiation. ***Hebrews 2:17.***
- That He loved them deeply. ***John 15:12-13***
- That He had compassion for them. ***Psalms 86:15.***
- That He would show them goodness and kindness. ***Ephesians 2:7***

Sacrifice to Jesus meant:

- Injustice, hypocrisy and heavy laws. ***Matthew 23:23***
- Was based on the old covenant. ***Hebrews 8:6-10***
- Works of the flesh. ***Acts 7:41.***
- It overshadowed the true High priest Jesus Christ, who would be the ultimate and last sacrifice for all humanity. ***Hebrews 2:1. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.***