# Matthew

# Lesson 9

In Matthew chapters 5-7 Jesus takes the opportunity to challenge the thinking of those following Him by contrasting many details of their religious life to life in His Kingdom. In doing that, Jesus declared His authority to be God's instrument of truth that countered the false teaching of the religious leaders. Those leaders knew God's Law but not God's heart. They mixed what God had said with their own traditions that allowed them to apply the truth any way they wanted. They used their spiritual positions as leaders to compromise the truth and worship themselves rather than God. This led to extreme conflict between them and Jesus, because it caused the people to question what those officials taught, and many in the crowds knew that what Jesus was teaching was genuine, and not filled with hypocrisy as the teachings of their leaders.

In chapters 8-9 Matthew now focuses on the miracles Jesus performed. These proved that not only did Jesus have authority over truth, but He had authority over disease, over nature, and over the demonic forces of evil. They also revealed His love and compassion for suffering people which was something the religious leaders never seemed to have.

Read Chapter 9

1. What city is Matthew referring to in vs. 1?

2. Using Mark 2:1-5 and Luke 5:17-20 describe the scene of Matthew 9:1-2. According to Mark 2:12 and Luke 5: 26, what were the reactions of the crowds to this miracle?

3. What specifically did Jesus say to the man? 9:2

4. *How did the Pharisees and scribes respond?  Why do you think they didn't say that out loud?  9:3-4*

5. *Since they didn't make their complaint out loud, why do you think Jesus addressed it?*

6. *What should Jesus' ability to heal have proven to the religious leaders?  Matthew 9:5-6*

7. *Where is Jesus in Matthew 9:9-13 (see also Luke 5:29), and how do the religious leaders (Pharisees) respond to this?  What does Jesus say is His reason for being there?*

8. *Explain what you think Jesus meant when He quoted Hosea 6:6 in response to the Pharisees (vs. 13).  See also Isaiah 1:11-17 and Micah 6:6-8.  How do you apply this to your life?*

*"In fasting we abstain in some significant way from food and possibly from drink as well. This discipline teaches us a lot about ourselves very quickly.  It will certainly prove humiliating to us, as it reveals to us how much our peace depends upon the pleasures of eating. It may also bring to mind how we are using food pleasure to assuage the discomforts caused in our bodies by faithless and unwise living and attitudes—lack of self-worth, meaningless work, purposeless existence or lack of rest or exercise.  ...Fasting confirms our utter dependence upon God by finding in him a source of sustenance beyond food."*

The Spirit of the Disciplines  *Dallas Willard*

9. *How do the word pictures in vs. 15-17 apply to the question Jesus was asked in vs. 14? Explain.*

10. *According to Luke 8:41-42, who was the synagogue official of Matthew 9:18? How does Matthew's account of the girl differ from Mark 5:23 and Luke 8:42?*

11. *What kept Jesus from getting to the girl before she died? Matthew 9:19-22 and Luke 8:43-48. What was Jesus able to teach them through this event?*

12. *Why do you think Jesus asked the blind men the question in vs. 28?*

13. *How did Jesus feel about the crowds following Him? What did He tell His disciples to do about the needs they saw?*

# *Prayer requests:*

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# *Group time notes:*

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