Matthew
Chapter 9



As you prepare for this week's study, begin by praying and asking God to open your heart and mind to understand the truths He has for you this week. Then read this week's chapter, Matthew 9. As you read through the entire chapter, what are your first impressions? What stands out to you?

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Mission 119: Search Matthew and listen to the commentary for Matthew 8-9, if you haven't already done so.

Day 1 – The Big Picture

Matthew 9:1-38

1) What did Jesus do or say to each person in this chapter? How did each person respond?
   a) The paralytic _____
      _____
   b) The scribes _____
      _____
   c) Matthew _____
      _____
   d) The Pharisees _____
      _____
   e) John's disciples _____
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f) The ruler/official _____

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g) The bleeding woman _____

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h) The two blind men _____

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i) The demon-possessed mute _____

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2) List the verbs describing Jesus' actions in this chapter. What did they suggest about His priorities?

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3) What miracles or healings did Jesus perform in this chapter? List them in order.

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4) What were the repeated words, phrases, or themes in this chapter?

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5) What issues did the Pharisees have with Jesus' behavior in this chapter?

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6) What seemed to be Jesus' main concern throughout this chapter?

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7) Compare the responses to Jesus' miracles in the chapter (the crowds, the Pharisees, those healed). What different responses to Jesus emerged?

8) How did Matthew 9 build on the picture of Jesus established in Matthew 8? What new dimensions of His identity and mission were revealed here?

9) How did Jesus' ministry to the marginalized (the sick, the sinners, the unclean, the demon-possessed) fit into Israel's larger story about who belonged to God's people?

Day 2 – The Details

1) Read Mark 2:1–12 and Luke 5:17–26, the parallel accounts of the paralytic recorded in verses 2-8. What similarities and differences do you notice? What did Matthew seem to focus on in his account?

2) Look up the Greek word *teknon*, rendered "son" in verse 2. What did this word suggest about how Jesus viewed the man with a disability? What did it suggest about who Jesus was?

3) What did the healing of the paralytic teach you about Jesus, particularly regarding His authority to forgive sins?

4) A “call narrative” is an instance in which God directly commissions an individual for a specific role in His service. In the other "call narratives" parallel to Matthew’s call in verse 9, note what's similar and what Matthew's account emphasized.

   a) Mark 2:13-14 _____

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   b) Luke 5:27-32 _____

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5) How did Jesus respond to His critics in verses 12–13?

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6) Why did the Pharisees and religious rulers have an issue with Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners? (v.14-17) Think through the Old Testament implications of holiness and separation.

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7) How were Jesus' interactions in this chapter (with sinners, with questions about fasting, etc.) like new wine and new cloth (v.16–17)? What was Jesus communicating about the kingdom He was bringing?

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8) What did you see Jesus doing in verses 18–26? What did these actions suggest about His identity? What do you think about His actions?

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9) Compare and contrast the heart and attitude of the religious leaders with that of the official. In what ways was the official more in tune with Jesus than the religious leaders?

   a) The scribes (v.1–8) _____

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b) Pharisees (v.11–13) _____

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c) The official (v.18-26) _____

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10) Trace the progression of opposition in this chapter - questioning Jesus' authority (v.1–8), questioning His associations (v.9–13), questioning His practices (v.14–17). What pattern do you notice?

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11) What issues were the bleeding woman and the official's daughter facing? What was their status based on Old Testament Levitical law? (v.20-26)

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12) What did the healing of the two blind men (v.27–31) and the demon-possessed mute (v.32–34) add to the picture of Jesus emerging in this chapter?

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13) **Is there anything in this chapter new to you?

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Day 3 - Connecting the Dots…

1) **The calling of Matthew (v.9), a tax collector, into discipleship reflected a larger biblical pattern of God choosing unlikely people. What other Old Testament examples come to mind, and how did Matthew's call fit this pattern?

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2) The Pharisees objected to Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners. How did Jesus' response (v.12–13) quoting Hosea 6:6, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice," reframe the Old Testament's view of true righteousness? How did the original context illuminate the New Testament passage?

3) Jesus' authority to forgive sins (v.1–8) was understood by the scribes as something only God could do. How did this connect to Old Testament expectations about who God was and what the Messiah would do?

4) The image of new wine and new cloth (vv.16–17) suggested something genuinely new was happening. How did this relate to the Old Testament promise of a new covenant found in Jeremiah 31:31–34?

5) Based on Old Testament references, would someone like the official's daughter or the bleeding woman have been able to receive ritual purity according to Jewish law? Explain why or why not.

6) The bleeding woman's condition would have made her ceremonially unclean under Levitical law (Leviticus 15:25–30). How did Jesus' response to her touch reverse the expected direction of uncleanness?

7) How did the raising of the official's daughter connect to Old Testament accounts of resurrection or restoration of life?

   a) 1 Kings 17:17–24

b) 2 Kings 4:32–37 _____

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8) Jesus' healing ministry in this chapter (the blind, the mute, the sick) echoes messianic expectations from Isaiah 35:5–6. How did these healings function as signs pointing to who Jesus was?

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Day 4 - Walking the Way of Jesus

1) Jesus tells the paralytic his sins were forgiven before healing him physically. Is there an area of your life where you've sought a "fix" from God when what you really needed first was forgiveness or inner healing?

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2) The scribes questioned Jesus' authority in their hearts before He addressed it. Where might you be silently questioning who Jesus was or what He can do, without bringing it to Him directly?

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3) **Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector and social outcast, with a simple "follow me." Is there a part of your past or identity that makes you feel unqualified to follow Jesus closely? How does this story speak to that?

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4) Jesus said He came to eat with and call sinners, not the righteous. Do you tend to relate to God more like the Pharisees (unaware of your need) or like Matthew (aware of your need)? Who are “the sinners and tax collectors” in your life?

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5) The new wine/new cloth teaching suggested Jesus didn't just patch up old ways of living, He transformed them. Is there an area of your life where you're trying to fit Jesus into old patterns rather than letting Him make something new?

6) The bleeding woman approached Jesus in faith, even though she had every reason to feel disqualified or ashamed. What shame or sense of disqualification do you carry that you need to bring to Jesus?

7) **Jesus tells the woman, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." How does being addressed personally and tenderly by Jesus affect how you see yourself?

8) **The official came to Jesus in the middle of grief and crisis, asking for help. Is there a situation in your life right now where you need to bring your need directly to Jesus, even if it feels desperate or interrupting?

9) **The two blind men persistently followed Jesus, calling out for mercy. Is there something you've stopped asking God for because you've grown discouraged? What does persistent faith look like for you?

10) The Pharisees attributed Jesus' power to the prince of demons (v.34), refusing to see what was plainly in front of them. Is there evidence of God's work in your life or in the lives of others you've been resistant to acknowledge?

11) Looking at the variety of people Jesus encountered in this chapter (the sick, the sinners, the mourners, the desperate, the doubting), where do you see yourself most clearly? What did Jesus' response to that person mean for you?

12) **What key point did you learn this week about walking the way of Jesus?

Day 5 - What Do You Think?

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

Today, read chapter 9 with a seeking posture, and be attentive to where God is forming your heart, reordering your priorities, and inviting you into His kingdom life. As you do, take time to reflect on how God's living Word is at work in your life.

Use the questions below to notice where you sense His invitation, conviction, or encouragement. You do not need to answer every question each week. Instead, choose two or three that stand out and spend time with them. Pay attention to where God is leading you toward deeper trust, understanding, and transformation.

1) **What part of God's redemptive story became larger, stranger, or more beautiful after studying this chapter?

2) **What assumptions from this passage quietly challenge you in your life (ideas about identity, comfort, control, security, significance, etc.)?

3) **Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you the hero, someone in the crowd, or someone in need of the grace being revealed?

4) What part of God's kingdom seemed upside down in this passage compared to the kingdom of this world?

5) Did any mystery remain unresolved after reading this chapter? Rather than solving it, how might living with that mystery deepen your trust in God?

6) **What invitation did Jesus extend here to experience transformation in your life?

7) If we lived out the truths we've read about in this chapter in our families, workplaces, churches, and neighborhood - what might become more beautiful about our community? What might become uncomfortable?