

# 2019-2020 Bible Study

## #17

1/28/20

# Matthew 9

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# Outline for Matthew 9

- **Matthew 9**
- Matthew reveals Jesus use of the term “Son of Man”
  - Jesus Heals a Paralytic back in Capernaum
  - The Call of Matthew
  - The Question about Fasting
  - A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed
  - Jesus Heals Two Blind Men
  - Jesus Heals a Man Who Was Mute
  - The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Laborers Are Few

# Matthew 9

- **Matthew 9:1-3** *“And getting into the boat he crossed over and came to his own city....And behold some of the scribes said to themselves, this man is blaspheming”*
  - Jesus returns to his base in *Capernaum* where a paralytic was brought to him
  - Mark (5:1-20) and Luke(8:26-39) expand the story to describe the man’s friends removing the roof tiles to let the paralytic reach Jesus
  - Further, Mark (who was writing the Gospel according to Peter for those in Rome), had to elaborate on why the scribes accused Jesus of “blaspheming”
  - The Jews in Matthew’s audience understood that only God could forgive sins, but the Gentiles had no such knowledge

# Matthew 9 (Cont)

- Most likely, no one in *Rome* had ever met or heard of a Pharisee or a scribe
- Even though Mark wrote the shortest Gospel, because it contained fewer stories than Matthew or Luke, many of his stories were longer due to the explanatory information he added for his listeners \*

# Matthew 9 (Cont)

- **Matthew 9:4-8** *“But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, ‘why do you think evil in your hearts? For is it easier to say, your sins are forgiven, or to say, rise and walk?’...who had given such authority to men”*
  - The term “son of man” was a very famous Jewish Old Testament saying
  - It was used in five different ways
  - Matthew will use it 28 times in his gospel

# Five meanings for the term “Son of man”

- A human being
- A son of Adam
- A Prophet (Ezekiel used it over 40 times concerning himself)
- The Divine or Messianic title
- As seen in **Daniel 7:13** <sup>a</sup>

# Matthew 9 (Cont)

- In Daniel's dream, one like the "son of man" was seen ascending on the clouds to the ancient of days as he sat on his throne
- Following these events, it was believed that the Kingdom of God would be established and God's Messiah would appear
- The Jews were wondering who was this "son of man" who could:
  - Command the seas?
  - Forgive sins?
  - Cause a man to be raised from paralysis?
- They asked this question throughout Jesus' Galilean ministry

# Matthew 9 (Cont)

- Father pointed out that this question will change after the story at *Caesarea Philippi* when Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah
- In this story, (**Matthew 9:1-8**) the man gets up and walks and the witnesses glorify God for giving such “authority” to a man
- The Fathers of the Church saw this as an image of the sacramental forgiveness (Confession) in the church
- Notice, the passage says that the people understood this power to have been given to “men” (plural)

# Matthew 9 (Cont)

- But, Jesus was showing his audience something more than this as he was demonstrating the fulfillment of **Daniel 7:13**
- In the end, the result is that all those who are part of the Son of man, part of humanity, and part of the church will see this power coming in the Church via baptism and sacramental confession \*

# Matthew 9 (Cont)

- **Matthew 9:9-13** *“As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office...For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners”*
  - Most likely, the tax booth was just down the street from Peter’s house by the entry to the city gate
  - Jesus walked up and called Matthew to follow him
  - Matthew does so and celebrates by throwing a party for Jesus and his tax collector buddies
  - The Pharisees were outraged at this behavior

# Matthew 9 (Cont)

- Jesus reminds them that He came to bring sinners to righteousness
- If they were already righteous, they had no need for His calling
- The Pharisees went out of their way to avoid coming in contact with tax collectors, sinners, the sick, the unclean etc.
- To them a politically unclean tax collector was a:
  - Sellout
  - Sinner
  - Turncoat
  - Collaborator
- But, Jesus walked up and called Matthew to follow Him \*

# Matthew 9 (Cont)

- **Matthew 9:14-17** *“Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast”*
  - Jesus asked if they would “fast” during a wedding feast while the bridegroom was present?
  - He reminded them that one did not put new wine in old wineskins or sew a new patch on an old garment
  - He suggested that something different was going on here \*

# Matthew 9 (Cont)

- **Matthew 9:18-26** *“while he was thus speaking to them a ruler came and knelt before him...And the report went through all the district”*
  - While traveling, a woman with a hemorrhage came up and touched his garment hoping to be healed
  - This is the a source for the Church’s teaching on “relics”
  - She believed that if she touched a holy man’s garment, she was coming in contact with God, the divine healer
  - Jesus responds to this by stating that it was her faith which healed her
  - We will see this again in the Book of Acts where the mere shadow of Peter healed the sick
  - Then, Jesus enters the ruler’s house and heals his daughter \*

# Matthew 9 (Cont)

- **Matthew 9:27-37** *“And so Jesus passed on from there...to send out laborers into his harvest”*
  - Jesus goes on to heal two blind men and a demoniac
  - Father pointed out that at this point serious tension begins between Jesus and the Pharisees
  - From here on, the majority of the Pharisees turned against Him and his movement
  - They had determined that He was not the Messiah, and in fact, was a false prophet and they were determined to test him and try to trip him up
  - Not every Pharisee turned against Jesus (Nicodemus) especially after the resurrection, when many came into the early Church (Acts 15) \*