

STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 37 - Jesus Heals a Paralytic - Matthew 9:1-8

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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MT 9:1 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. [2] Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

MT 9:3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

MT 9:4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? [5] Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? [6] But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." [7] And the man got up and went home. [8] When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 37 - Jesus Heals a Paralytic - Matthew 9:1-8

433. What means of transportation did Jesus use to get to His own town? (9:1)
434. What was Jesus' destination? (9:1)
435. Upon His arrival, whom did Jesus encounter? (9:2)
436. What attribute did the men exhibit in coming to Christ? (9:2)
437. What unexpected comment did Jesus make to the disabled person among them? (9:2)
438. Who observed the exchange between the paralytic and Jesus? (9:3)
439. What did the teachers of the law think about Jesus' declaration? (9:3)
440. What supernatural ability did Jesus use? (9:4)
441. What did Jesus say about the teachers' opinions? (9:4-6)

442. What was Jesus' argument for His authority to forgive sins? (9:5-6)
443. What did Jesus do to prove His authority to forgive sins? (9:6)
444. What happened to the paralytic? (9:7)
445. What did the paralytic do? (9:7)
446. What was the crowd's reaction to this event? (9:8)

Lesson 38 - The Calling of Matthew - Matthew 9:9-13

MT 9:9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

MT 9:10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. [11] When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and `sinners'?"

MT 9:12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. [13] But go and learn what this means: `I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'" For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 38 - The Calling of Matthew - Matthew 9:9-13

447. Who did Jesus see sitting at a tax collector's booth? (9:9)
448. What was Matthew's job? (9:9)
449. What did Jesus tell Matthew to do? (9:9)
450. How did Matthew respond to Jesus' statement? (9:9)
451. Where did Jesus and Matthew go? Why? (9:10)
452. What kind of people joined Jesus and His new follower for dinner? (9:10)
453. What did the Pharisees think of Jesus' attendance at Matthew's social function? (9:11)
454. Who reported the Pharisees' comments to Jesus? (9:12)
455. What was Jesus' response to the Pharisees? (9:12)

456. What did Jesus tell His listeners they needed to learn? (9:13)

457. What did Jesus say He had come to earth to do? (9:13)

Lesson 39 - Jesus Questioned About Fasting - Matthew 9:14-17

MT 9:14 Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

MT 9:15 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 from them; then they will fast.

MT 9:16 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. [17] Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 39 - Jesus Questioned About Fasting - Matthew 9:14-17

458. Who approached Jesus after the dinner party at Matthew's house? (9:14)

459. What topic were John's disciples interested in discussing with Christ? (9:14)

460. What did John's disciples want to know? (9:14)

461. How did Jesus explain the fact that His disciples did not fast? (9:15)

462. What imagery did Jesus use as an illustration? (9:15)

463. To what did Jesus compare Himself? (9:15)

464. What did Jesus suggest would happen? (9:15)

465. What sewing illustration did Jesus use? (9:16)

466. Using an illustration from the world of wine making, Jesus talked about the need to do what? (9:17)

467. What did Jesus say would happen if new wine was poured into old wineskins? (9:17)

Lesson 40 - A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman - Matthew 9:18-26

MT 9:18 While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." [19] Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

MT 9:20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. [21] She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

MT 9:22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment.

MT 9:23 When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, [24] he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. [25] After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. [26] News of this spread through all that region.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 40 - A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman - Matthew 9:18-26

468. Who approached Jesus? (9:18)
469. What did the man do? (9:18)
470. With what startling situation and request did the man present Jesus? (9:18)
471. How did Jesus react? (9:19)
472. Who accompanied Jesus? (9:19)
473. While Jesus and the others made their way to the man's house, who touched Jesus' cloak? (9:20)
474. From what kind of ailment did the woman suffer? (9:20)
475. What was the woman's reasoning for touching Jesus' cloak? (9:21)
476. What happened as the woman made contact with Jesus? (9:22)
477. What did Jesus do for the woman? (9:22)
478. Why was the woman healed? (9:22)
479. Upon arriving at the ruler's house, what did Jesus say to the crowd? (9:24)

480. What was the crowd's response to Jesus' unexpected statement? (9:24)

481. What did Christ do after He put the crowd outside? (9:25)

482. What happened after Christ left? (9:26)

Lesson 41 - Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute - Matthew 9:27-34

MT 9:27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

MT 9:28 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.

MT 9:29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; [30] and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." [31] But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

MT 9:32 While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. [33] And 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."

MT 9:34 But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 41 - Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute - Matthew 9:27-34

483. Who was following Jesus? (9:27)

484. What were the men calling Jesus? (9:27)

485. What were the men asking Christ to do? (9:27)

486. What question did Jesus ask the men who were following Him? (9:28)

487. How did the men respond to Jesus' question? (9:28)

488. What did Jesus do to grant the men's request? (9:29)

489. What did Jesus say to the men? (9:30)

- 490. What was the effect of Jesus' actions on the men? (9:30)
- 491. What stern warning did Jesus give the men? (9:30)
- 492. How well did the men heed Jesus' command? (9:31)
- 493. Who was brought to Jesus for healing after the two blind men were healed? (9:32)
- 494. What happened to the demon-possessed man? (9:33)
- 495. What was the reaction of the onlookers when the demon was driven out? (9:33)
- 496. How did the Pharisees explain what happened? (9:34)

Lesson 42 - The Workers Are Few - Matthew 9:35-38

MT 9:35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. [36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. [37] Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. [38] Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 42 - The Workers Are Few - Matthew 9:35-38

- 497. Where did Jesus go? To do what? (9:35)
- 498. Where did Jesus teach? (9:35)
- 499. What did Jesus preach about? (9:35)
- 500. What kinds of disease and sickness did Jesus heal? (9:35)
- 501. What emotion did Jesus feel when He saw the crowds of people around Him? (9:36)
- 502. Why did Jesus feel as He did? (9:36)
- 503. What helpless animals were the people compared to? (9:36)
- 504. In what terms did Jesus describe the situation He and His disciples were observing? (9:37)
- 505. How did Jesus describe the number of people helping others come to Him? (9:37)

506. Who did Jesus tell His disciples to discuss the lack of workers with? (9:37)

507. For whom did Jesus tell His disciples to pray? (9:37)