

A Day in the Life of Jesus

David Flatt

Matthew chapter nine describes a day in the life of Jesus. He was in the thick of His ministry. Crowds of people anxiously came to see Him. The chapter begins with Jesus forgiving the sins of a paralyzed man and then healing him. Next, Jesus leaves the house and talks with a tax collector: Matthew. Jesus asks him to become a disciple. At Matthew's house, Jesus tells everyone that He came to call sinners, not the righteous. Then, Jesus explained that they were living in an exciting time of celebration.

After spending time in Matthew's home, more people came to Jesus seeking healing. A ruler came and asked Jesus to raise his daughter from the dead. On His way to the man's home, Jesus healed a woman. Eventually, Jesus raised the ruler's daughter from the dead, gave sight to two blind men, and cast a demon from a man who was mute, enabling him to speak.

The chapter closes with crowds of people coming to Jesus to be healed. Jesus had compassion for the masses. They were helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus said, "...The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:37-38). The next chapter begins with Jesus sending the apostles into the region to heal the sick.

The flow of thought in this chapter has an interesting dynamic. We are given key information about the nature of Jesus and His purpose for disciples. Matthew is showing us what Jesus can do for us and how we can carry out His mission in the world.

1. Jesus came to forgive sins. This exciting scene begins with Jesus forgiving the sins of a paralyzed man. This was shocking and unexpected. The man had been brought to Jesus in the hopes of receiving physical healing. Instead, Jesus gave the man spiritual restoration, then physical healing. Responding to criticism for His actions, Jesus explained, "...Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home" (Matt. 9:4-6).

Spiritual restoration was the primary purpose for Jesus coming to earth. The miracles were evidence of His divine authority. They showed His power. They proved His ability to reverse the decay of sin and produce new creation. They were signs given to produce faith in people like us.

2. Jesus calls sinners. Jesus publically inviting Matthew to become a disciple was scandalous. Matthew was a tax collector. As a minister for the Roman Empire, he would have been viewed as a traitor to the nation of Israel. When criticized for associating with Matthew, Jesus said, "...Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matt. 9:12-13).

Matthew's life must have been difficult. We can only imagine the dirty looks, scorn, and derision he experienced daily. He could not have had many friends. Then, one day, the most popular man anywhere asked him to be His disciple. Jesus calling sinners was good and welcomed news for Matthew. Is His calling good and welcomed news to you?

3. Jesus is reason to celebrate. The followers of John asked Jesus about His teaching on fasting. Fasting was performed with prayer at somber times. As far as Jesus was concerned, this was not a somber occasion. Jesus asked, "...Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast" (Matt. 9:15).

There are times when mourning is appropriate. There would come a time when fasting would be warranted. This was not that time. Jesus calling us and coming into our lives is a joyous time. Jesus comes to save, forgive, and renew sinners. He is about hope. His message is good news!

4. We cannot heal ourselves. A desperate woman sought healing from Jesus. She had suffered for twelve years. Imagine all the doctors she must have seen, all the home remedies she must have tried, and the money she must have spent trying to find a cure. Nothing worked. The more she bled, the more life went out of her.

There was one truth this woman believed with every part of her being: Jesus could heal her. She did not need to have an examination. She did not need to bring money. She did not need to have a conversation. The woman thought to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well" (Matt. 9:21). Jesus acknowledged the woman and said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well" (Matt. 9:22). She was healed by Jesus' grace through faith. Sound familiar?

5. Jesus gives new life. Finally, Jesus made His way through the crowds and to the ruler's home. Family and friends had gathered to mourn the death of the man's daughter. Jesus declared that the girl was not dead. She was just sleeping. As the people laughed at Jesus, He took her by the hand and raised her from the dead (Matt. 9:24-25).

This was the earliest demonstration of Jesus' power over death. Imagine the talk generated from this miracle. Had the girl *really* been dead? Maybe she had been sleeping as Jesus said? Questions would have abounded. Intrigue with Jesus would have greatly increased.

Conclusion

Readers can quickly get caught up in the excitement of Jesus' busy ministry. However, there is an important dynamic that develops. Jesus heals people and gives them new life. Jesus calls people and gives them a new purpose.

Jesus intends to heal us spiritually. He wants us to receive His forgiveness through faith. His forgiveness has the potential to profoundly change us and use us in His ministry. Jesus sends the disciples into the world to work on His behalf. Jesus wants us to share in His work. We can share our change with other people. We can point people to Jesus.