

A note from Kathy

I started my time in this chapter reading it over and over. Each time when I came to verse 36, I wept. One friend's name came to my mind over and over, so I would pray. Just thinking about all of the people who wander through life like sheep without a shepherd brings tears to my eyes even now. My prayer is that I will stop wasting precious time on things that really don't matter, and that I will be busy kingdom living.

Observation

1. Where had Jesus been in Matthew 8:26?
2. Do you recall what prompted him to leave? (Matthew 8:34.)
3. In Matthew 9:1, Jesus set sail for Capernaum. Locate these places on a map.
The moment he arrived, who did he meet?
4. This man did not come himself; he could not; but what was he blessed to have?
5. The scripture does not say what had happened to this man, but we see he had other needs than just his physical disability. Do you suppose these friends had been carrying for him for awhile? They may have heard about Jesus healings but were unable to get the man there the last time. Whatever the case, they brought him now.
Look at verse 2, what did Jesus see that moved him?
6. When Jesus looked at the crippled man, what needs did he see?
1. _____ need, 2. _____ need
7. What was the result of this amazing physical and spiritual healing? (Vs. 8.)

8. Matthew is one of my favorite disciples. When Jesus called him, I am sure he considered the cost, yet he immediately left his profession and followed. Unlike the fishermen who could return to their nets if things did not work out, Matthew was finished. What was his profession? Who was his employer?
9. Matthew was “all in” from the very beginning of his time with Jesus. He invited him home, served him food, and invited many of his friends to come. The only friends someone in his line of work would have had would be business associates. The other Jews hated them. Look up Luke 3:12-13 to see why. What was the common practice tax collector of Jesus day?
10. In verses 11-13 who do we see getting upset because Jesus is eating at Matthew’s home?
11. Why do you suppose they were upset?
12. Shouldn’t those who were supposed to be leading others spiritually be happy if someone reached out to a sinner? It is painfully obvious what is really going on in their hearts and minds. How would you describe their hearts?
13. John the Baptist’s disciples came to see Jesus. Where was John? (Matthew 4:12.)
14. John’s disciples had questions for Jesus. What were they curious about? (Verse 14-15.)
15. Jesus was surrounded by very new believers. This was a time of teaching and training. They had much to learn. What do you believe the old garments and the old wine skins referred to?

16. How about another chart? We have 5 more healings in this chapter. Fill in the chart below with as many details as you can glean from Matthew 9:18-34.

Matthew 9:18-34	Ruler's daughter	Woman	2 Men	Man
Their problem?				
Their need?				
Jesus response?				

17. What was Jesus doing in verse 35?

18. Jesus' heart was moved with compassion when he saw the crowds of people. Even though there were teachers of the law everywhere, how are the people described? How could this be? What was wrong?

19. Jesus had no intention of leaving them in this unprotected condition. In Matthew 9:37-38 what did Jesus tell his disciples to do?

Application

1. After reading about the paralytic man's friends, were you challenged to view your friendships in a different way? Be as specific as possible so that when we discuss this together we can glean from each other's ideas.
2. As you read the account of Matthew's invitation to follow Jesus, did you think back to the time when you counted the cost and chose to follow him yourself? If you have

never written down your testimony I encourage you to do this. I was advised many years ago to write it out completely, then to go back through and cut it in half, then go back through and omit anything that was not really pertinent to my salvation. (When writing yours, no one needs to know you were wearing your favorite blue dress that your aunt gave you for Christmas.) Get it down to a paragraph or two so that at any moment you can share what Christ did for you. No one can argue with a personal testimony; it carries great weight. This is what happened to me!

3. How were you encouraged by the healings we looked at in this chapter? Did one speak to you more than the others? In what way? What detail?
4. Many hearts are ready and would gladly turn their burdens over if they only knew the truth. They are wandering like sheep without a shepherd. It is true we need more men, women and yes, children to step up and be the harvesters in the field, but what are we doing? Are you asking God to help you see with his eyes the needs of those around you? Are you making the most of your opportunities to glorify God; to share the goodness and mercy of our God with others as Jesus did with compassion and love?
5. I challenge you this week to ask God to help you see others with compassion and to look for ways to be a part of meeting the needs of those God brings your way. I realize there will be a cost. You may need to give your time and energy as the friends of Matthew 9:2. You may have to step out in faith as Matthew did when he invited his lost friends to meet Jesus. It may cost you your pride as the ruler of verse 18 who willingly bowed at Jesus feet to intercede for his daughter. Sacrifice is simply part of service. What are you willing to sacrifice so that others may see Jesus and God might be glorified?