

Chapter Nine

Jesus Uses His Miracles to Teach Salvation

I. Introduction to Chapter 9

- A. Jesus and His disciples just finished in Gadara, and passed over the Sea of Galilee again to Nazareth
- B. Jesus is in Nazareth – which is in the Capernaum area - “His own city” (9:1)

II. Lesson

A. Jesus Heals a Man of the Palsy (9:1-8)

1. This account is given also in Mark 2:1-12 and is much more extensive there
2. “*They*” are some four friends who bring a paralysed man to Jesus on a bed
3. Jesus “_____” their faith – not just the paralysed man’s faith – if he had any at all!
 - a. Jesus SAW their faith – what a wild thought – that Jesus could see faith!
 - b. The ONLY thing that impresses God is what? _____ Look at: Mark 6:5; Matt 8:10; Matt 15:28; and Romans 1:17
 - c. Visible Faith is NOT just WHAT we believe, but whether we *fully believe*
4. Jesus spoke _____!
5. The scribes got upset and accused Jesus of _____ God
 - a. Jesus upsets the religious crowd!
 - b. Blasphemy means to demote God, falsely blame God, to be irreverent and disrespectful of God
 - c. The Scribes, Jesus was acting like God, and so was blaspheming God
 - d. The antichrist will blaspheme God (Rev 13:6)
6. Jesus uses this healing experience to Teach about _____ Healing
 - a. It is impossible to heal a palsied man – right?
 - b. Yet Jesus was able to heal him – right?
 - c. People believed that He could heal a man – right?
 - d. It is just as impossible to forgive a man his sins – right?
 - e. And no one believed that anyone but GOD could forgive sins – right?
 - f. So Jesus challenges them to accept that HE COULD forgive sins, and thereby accept the fact that he was GOD in the flesh!
 - g. Jesus declares that He had the power to forgive sins by the proof of being able to heal
 - h. And so He heals the palsied man!
7. There was no doubt that an impossible miracle occurred!
8. And all the multitude marvelled and glorified God at the _____
9. But _____ of them became believers on Jesus Christ yet!
 - a. So Jesus, knowing their thoughts – and he knows YOURS too – presents the PROOF that _____ (Luke 5:31; Isa 43:11; Rom 8:33) – if only God can forgive sins, then Jesus MUST be GOD!!!
 - b. You see, everyone expected Jesus to heal! But Christ deals with the sin problem first! So, long before you start working on your finances, on your health, and your family troubles - deal with your heart!
 - c. Learn through this the reason for Christ’s “miracles” - *to demonstrate visually what was going on spiritually!*
 - 1) Healing of a blind man - shows He wants to heal spiritual blindness (far more important)
 - 2) Raising a dead man back to life - shows He wants to resurrect our dead spirits to eternal life!!!
 - d. The scribes think this is *blasphemy* to think a MAN could forgive sins – ONLY GOD can forgive sins

B. Jesus Calls _____ to be His Disciple (9:9-13)

1. Here is a man who also was from the area around the Sea of Galilee
2. His father’s name was _____

3. Matthew had two names: _____ and _____
4. Matthew's Career – A _____ (Mt 9:9)
 - a. Not a good career choice
 - b. As a publican you worked for the occupying army as a tax collector
 - c. Sounds ok enough, until you learn of their methods
 - d. A Publican was a "public" official, who decided how much tax you owed the Roman Government, and then made sure that you paid that amount. And boy could he convince you to pay! He had full authority from the Romans to use fear, intimidation, extortion, bribery, and whatever it took to squeeze every penny from your pockets that he could.
 - e. Sounds a lot like revenue officers even today!
5. Matthew's Encounter with Jesus (Mt 9:9)
 - a. Jesus has been ministering at this point for months, and people have been attracted to such a man as He was
 - b. Levi sat week after week in his seat of authority, and met every walk of life, and walked all over them
 - c. You better believe he already had met Peter, and James, and other disciples, but only on a professional basis – as their tax-collector
 - d. But today Levi meets a Man like no other man
 - e. Today, instead of the tax-man calling (which would strike fear and dread in anyone's heart), it is the Messiah calling on Levi!
 - f. What a marvellous surprise Levi experienced!
 - g. Let's see the event through the eyes of Luke 5:27-28
 - 1) You can bet that NOTHING was going to move Levi from that comfortable seat of custom
 - 2) You can bet that no one impressed Levi as he saw every walk of life pass before like he was a little god
 - 3) That was until Jesus passed by and called his name!
 - 4) Notice the simplicity – "Follow Me!" – Jesus issued a command that needed to be obeyed – it was not automatic, but according to free will! If it was pre-determined then Jesus would not have had to say anything, and Levi would, like a robot have just gotten up!
 - h. Jesus came to call sinners, lepers, demoniacs, harlots, and PUBLICANS to follow Him
 - i. Can you imagine how this went against the religious mind-set? For a spiritual man like Jesus to want to be associated with such riff-raff? Spiritual people should know better (Cf Lk 7:37,38,39)
6. Matthew's _____ (Lk 5:27-32). You see his joy and excitement in three things he did: He was delighted to give everything up for the Lord Jesus, to simply follow the Lord Jesus, and to bring others to meet Jesus
 - a. His Joy Was To Abandon All (Lk 5:27,28)
 - 1) Levi left everything
 - 2) He abandoned everything
 - 3) Whatever it costs you to be with Jesus in heaven, it will be worth it
 - 4) Whatever it costs you to spend time with Jesus in your Bible reading and prayer time, and in church time, will be eternally worth it!
 - 5) The apostle Paul knew the truth of this (Philp 3:8-9)
 - b. His Joy Was To Follow Christ – simply follow and do as He did
 - 1) This is where people go wrong. This is why so many are not getting saved today
 - 2) They are presented with a plastic god – a Barbie-kind of Jesus that is not real, nor impressive
 - 3) Matthew would only have considered throwing away his old life, IF Jesus was "out of this world awesome!"
 - 4) Matthew was delighted to leave his old life, and step into something guaranteed better!
 - 5) To follow Jesus meant:
 - a) To be a disciple of Jesus

- b) To be a student, a learner – someone who wanted to be LIKE Him in all His ways and attitudes
 - c) Day in and day out – not a part-time occupation
- 6) Though you may find the fishers occasionally fishing again, we never find Matthew at his sinful career again!
- 7) Notice the Requirements to follow Jesus
- a) A Desire – hunger – this was something that he had wanted all along
 - b) God’s word – the voice of God speaking to your heart
 - c) Simple surrender
 - d) Commitment – not a once off, or just an attempt at living the Christian life – it was an all or nothing decision!
- c. His Joy was To Get Others to Personally Meet such a Saviour! (Lk 5:29-32; Mt 9:10-13) and know Him, and love Him!
- 1) Uses his money for the gospel now
 - 2) Makes a great feast – _____ usually attracts people
 - 3) Jesus is sitting at the head table
 - 4) Levi invites every one of those sinners, and publicans to meet Jesus
 - 5) Matthew knew what Jesus could do – Jesus had done it for HIM
 - 6) Birds of a feather flock together – so go out and get your same feathered birds, and bring them to Jesus (to church to hear preaching, to Bible Study, or to prayer)
 - 7) Oh does THAT make the religious leaders MAD!
 - 8) Jesus, over all the conversations going on, hears their question, and then announces loud enough so that everyone can hear
 - a) Well people don’t need a physician
 - b) Only sick people do
 - c) Go back to your libraries and learn about God’s mercy
 - (i) God doesn’t want ceremonial sacrifices, and masses
 - (ii) God wants us to understand His great mercy on SINNERS
 - d) Repentance is what Jesus calls on us to do
 - (i) To change our MINDS
 - (ii) And our WAYS
 - (iii) To make our minds think like Jesus’
 - (iv) To make our lives live like Jesus
 - (v) God will settle for nothing less – and neither should you!
- d. This event affected a whole host of publicans (Lk 18:10-14)!!!
7. Matthew’s _____ – His New Life Work
- a. Had spent years being a tax-collector
 - 1) Someone who took careful records of people’s incomes, and whereabouts so that he could tax them for his own benefit
 - 2) Someone who had had such great authority as a Jew to be able to command Roman soldiers in his line of work
 - b. Now, he had a new career – a new life
 - c. He set out to write out the life of Jesus Christ – the Gospel according to Matthew. Didn’t write it of himself – was guided by the Holy Spirit
 - d. Writes around 37 AD – that would make it about 4 years after the death, burial, and resurrection of His Saviour
 - e. When Matthew writes, he hides nothing – reveals even his own failures (Mt 26:55,56)
 - f. But his life’s work now is that ALL the world would know about Jesus, the Christ – His Saviour, and Lord (Mt 28:19,20)
 - g. There is no greater purpose than the preaching of the Gospel
 - h. God chose to place this man’s work at the start of the New Testament

C. A Question About _____ (9:14-17)

1. The disciples of John the Baptist were a separate set of disciples
 - a. _____ had his own disciples
 - b. Elijah and other prophets had their followers
 - c. The Apostles had their followers
 - d. A church is a group of disciples, following their pastor as they all follow Christ (1Cor 11:1; 4:16; 1Thes 1:6)
2. John's Disciples and the Pharisees fasted a lot
 - a. John's disciples fasted _____
 - b. The Pharisees fasted _____ (Cf Luke 18:9-12)
 - c. But Jesus' disciples did NOT generally fast – which was unusual in that day
 - d. A parable is presented to teach about fasting – not about praying
 - 1) Fasting is _____ – in place of worrying
 - 2) The groom is _____
 - 3) John 3:29 has John the Baptist as only a Friend of the Bridegroom – Old Testament Jews
 - 4) The bride is the _____
 - 5) Children of the bridechamber are people associated with the wedding, meaning _____
 - 6) In their present situation, having the presence of Christ the bridegroom with them, required mirth and not mourning – see Zech 8:19
 - 7) The disciples had very little care and trouble: this was their rejoicing time, and there was a great deal of reason for it; they had no occasion to fast and mourn.
 - 8) The Groom being forcibly taken away would be tragic
 - 9) It would be THEN that fasting would be required!
 - e. Jesus then uses an object lesson about old and new things
 - 1) What Jesus was bringing about was not more of the same Jewish religion
 - 2) But a New Testament – a new way
 - 3) It could not just be added onto Judaism because it would tear it up!!!
 - 4) Everyone needed to dump the old and take on the new
 - 5) Same thing is true with Christianity – put off to put on!
 - 6) Old wine is _____ wine
 - 7) Old bottles had already been new once before and had stretched under the pressure of the wine fermenting
 - 8) Putting new wine (unfermented) into old bottles would cause them to break because all the stretch was out of them
 - f. The teaching is clear:
 - 1) What Jesus was offering was NEW and was not _____ to Judaism
 - 2) Fasting would occur DURING and AFTER the crucifixion, but not when Jesus was there present with them. The Pharisees had nothing, and so were fasting.

D. The Healing of A Young Girl, and a Woman (9:18-26)

1. Concern for Jarius' _____ (Mt 9:18,19; Cf Luke 8:41-56)
 - a. Notice the word, "Behold" this was amazing what you are about to read
 - b. A RULER of the Synagogue in Capernaum came to Jesus – had authority over the Jewish place of worship (Luke 8:41)
 - c. His name was Jarius
 - d. He had a daughter who was nearly dead – very ill
 - e. She was his only daughter (Luke 8:42) – there was concern for women and daughters – not in almost any other religion
 - f. She was only 12 years old
 - g. Jesus Agreed to come with no pulling, or fanfair
2. Healing of the Woman with an _____ (Matt 9:20-22)

- a. Jesus is now moving through the streets of Capernaum from Matthew's house to Jarius' house
 - b. A crowd is surrounding Jesus and pressing each other to get both a look and to touch Jesus
 - c. In the crowd is one woman who is feebly attempting to get close enough to Jesus
 - d. Her problem
 - 1) She is hemorrhaging – an issue (constant flow) of blood from a wound, or from her womb
 - 2) She is weak and sickly all the time
 - 3) She has been this way for 18 years
 - 4) She has spent all her money on Physicians (Luke 8:43) – not on quacks either
 - e. Her Faith
 - 1) Came up behind Jesus – didn't seek to block His movement
 - 2) Very modest and humble approach
 - 3) Believed that he could fulfil her need – not necessarily that he was the Saviour, but at least that he was the Messiah
 - 4) Believed that His power was not conditioned upon her great faith, just on her determination to touch Him
 - f. She touched just the hem (fringe) of His flowing garment, and she was perfectly and completely healed!
 - g. Jesus asks WHO TOUCHED ME in Luke 8:45-48 to teach the disciples about her faith, but here in Matthew, He just turns to her and rewards her faith
 - h. He calls her DAUGHTER – implying new birth, as we are called the SONS of God!
3. Back to Jarius and his Struggle with _____ (9:23-26)
- a. Jesus finally arrives into Jarius' home to find that everyone is mourning – the daughter is dead
 - b. Jesus commands everyone to move aside and quit weeping – the girl is not dead but is sleeping
 - c. And everyone mockingly laughed at Him – how dare a man come in and abuse the pain of a community over the death of such a young girl?!
 - d. Jesus did not allow their mockery to affect His authority and focus. Who would have had "faith" at this point? So Jesus presses on and resurrects her!
 - e. Was she dead?
 - 1) To men, she was very dead. People from the house had verified that she was very dead (Mk 5:35)
 - 2) But to Jesus, no one is truly dead, even after four days of death (as with Lazarus), Jesus sees them as only sleeping
 - 3) Christians know that all believers only sleep when they die (1Thes 4) – their body is asleep
 - 4) This would be only a mockery if she wasn't really dead!

E. The Healing of Two Blind Men (9:27-31)

1. These two men have only heard of all that was going on – could not see Jesus, but were desperately believing in Him as Isaiah 35:5 says the Messiah will be able to do
2. Cried out to Jesus as _____ – a messianic Title
3. Cried out for _____ – believed that as sinners, and as men, they deserved worse, but claimed the place of MERCY – have mercy on us – please have compassion on us
4. Jesus takes them into "the house" (Mt 9:28) which was His house that He stayed in while there
5. And Jesus asks them, "**Believe ye that I am able to do this?**"
6. They respond with two key words
 - a. _____ we believe, yes we have faith, yes we trust you
 - b. And because you are _____!
7. Jesus touched their eyes and rewarded their faith
8. Jesus commanded them that they were to keep this miracle _____! Why?
 - a. The miracles were becoming commonplace – people were only coming now for the miracles, and were only following Him for the entertainment instead of the truths preached!
 - b. This is not the only time Jesus told people to not proclaim His miracles
 - 1) Leper (Mt 8:4)
 - 2) Small crowd (Mt 12:15,16)

- 3) Peter, James and John coming down from Mt of Transfiguration (Mt 17:9)
 - c. Yet they went everywhere! Disobedient.
 - 1) Instead of going about and proclaiming what Christ had done
 - 2) They should have just let their miracle be self evident!
 - d. It sometimes works against Jesus to promote only His miraculous powers (See Mark 1:44,45)
 - e. In the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19,20, Jesus does NOT command people to go out into all the world to proclaim His healing power – He told them to PREACH the _____!
- F. Jesus Heals a _____ Man (9:32-33)**
1. A dumb man (unable to speak)
 2. Possessed with a devil
 3. Not just sick, but demonically influenced and oppressed!
 4. Once Jesus removed the devil, the man could speak – what a great truth!
 - a. Get to the source of your problem and remove THAT, and everything else will fall into place
 - b. Here his outward problem was a speech problem, but his cause was demonic grip and oppression
 - c. Constant Anger, wrath, bitterness are all an outward sign of an inner demonic work
- G. Jesus Caused Much _____ About Himself (9:34) – that is a good thing!**
1. The Pharisees HAD to find a way to discredit these verifiable miracles
 2. So they attacked the SOURCE of the miracles
 - a. Instead of it being from God
 - b. They promoted the idea that SATAN was doing the miracles
 - c. More on this in chapter 12
 3. Everything that Jesus did, though so visible, and so clearly provable that he was the Messiah, STILL caused controversy
 4. People will not believe when they don't WANT to believe, no matter how much evidence
- H. But all of this Healing was NOT Christ's Main Focus (9:35-38)**
1. Jesus went about all the cities and villages
 2. Continued teaching in their synagogues
 3. Preached the gospel of the kingdom – the Messianic Gospel
 4. Healing every sickness and every disease among the people.
 5. But no matter how many were healed, preached to, prayed for, there were always _____ (9:36)
 6. And no matter how extensive the healings there were, the problems went deeper
 - a. People's problems run deeper than physical illness
 - b. The people needed a Shepherd, a Saviour
 - c. Not from their enemy the Romans, or from their health problems but from their enemy, SIN!
 7. The multitudes moved Jesus to have even MORE compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Like a Doctor in a plague!
 8. Jesus call ALL His disciples to make themselves ready to go into all the world (9:37,38)
 - a. The harvest is plenteous – growing exponentially every year
 - b. Labourers are so few! Always have been
 - c. It's time to pray to the Lord of the Harvest that he would SEND out labourers
 - 1) As He did _____
 - 2) As He did _____ (in Amos 7:14,15)

III. Conclusions