



Sermon Discussion Questions: Matthew 8-9

Matthew 8:1-17

1. Share a time that you or someone close to you experienced healing from the Lord. What were the circumstances? How did that impact your faith?
2. This passage includes 3 stories of Jesus healing people. What are some similarities and differences between each situation?
3. One of the purposes of Jesus' healings is to display His authority as king over disease and sickness. How would you like for Jesus to bring physical healing to you or someone close to you?
4. While Jesus certainly brings healing to our bodies, even more so He comes to heal our souls. In what way(s) do you long for Jesus to heal you spiritually? How might your group pray for you?
5. Another purpose of Jesus' healings is to give us a taste of heaven when our bodies and souls are restored fully. What are you most looking forward to when Jesus brings the kingdom of heaven on earth in its fullness?

Matthew 8:18-27

1. Share a time you were in a bad storm. What were the circumstances? How did the experience impact you and your faith?
2. There are many different challenges that we may face that test our willingness to follow Jesus. What are a few listed in this passage? What are some others that come to mind for you personally?
3. What are some truths from this passage that can encourage you to keep following Jesus even when it's difficult?
4. Jesus displays His authority over physical storms in this story, but we know He displays authority over the "storms of life" as well. What storm do you long for Jesus to calm in your life right now? In what way can your group pray for both the storm and for your heart in the midst of it?

Matthew 8:28-34

1. Generally speaking, did you grow up focusing too much or not enough on Satan and evil forces? Did your experience lead you to fear, ambivalence, confidence, confusion, etc. when you thought about these things?
2. This passage displays that demonic spirits are real. What do we learn about them?
3. This story also reveals Jesus' authority over demons. How might His power and rule encourage your heart and strengthen your faith when you encounter the schemes of the enemy?
4. In Ephesians 6:10ff, the Apostle Paul reminds us that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of evil. He also exhorts us to fight with spiritual armor and activities, such as prayer and trusting in God's Word. What is a particular way you'd like to grow as you face the schemes of the enemy?

Matthew 9:1-8

1. Each one of us knows someone who struggles with an ongoing, debilitating health issue. What has that struggle been like? Take some time to pray for them.
2. In this story, Jesus begins by forgiving the sins of the paralyzed man and focusing on his spiritual needs first. Why do you think He does this?
3. Jesus also heals the man's paralysis and ministers to him physically. Why do you think He does this?
4. What might we learn from Jesus' approach to ministry that we can apply to our own lives?
5. Without the friends bringing the paralyzed man to Jesus, the man would not have been healed. Who is Jesus calling you to bring to Him? How might you follow the example of both the friends and Jesus?

Matthew 9:9-13

1. Jesus compares Himself to a physician. Who is your favorite doctor and why?
2. What do you notice in this passage about Jesus' life and ministry—who did He hang out with, what was He known for? How might you seek to follow His example?
3. Jesus chose a tax collector as one of His apostles. Why do you think He did this? What lessons might we learn about Jesus' approach to leadership development?
4. Jesus said, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." What do you think He meant by this? How might you be tempted to focus more on sacrifice rather than mercy?
5. On the other hand, where do you need the mercy of God in your life? How might God be calling you to display greater mercy in your life to those around you?

Matthew 9:14-17

1. Have you ever fasted? If so, share about your experience. How did God meet you or minister to you?
2. When asked about whether to fast, Jesus provides a wedding illustration. What is the point of this story?
3. Why do you think Jesus' disciples are to fast while He is away? How might you grow in this practice as you await His arrival?
4. Jesus concludes His teaching by sharing 2 illustrations related to old & new. What are they and what is Jesus' meaning behind them?
5. How might you God be bringing new life into your heart, relationships, etc.? What "old wineskins" or "old garments" might God be calling you to get rid of to embrace more life with Him?

Matthew 9:18-34

1. Share a time the Lord brought healing into your life. What were the circumstances? How did that impact you and those around you?
2. In this passage, there are several stories of Jesus healing people. Which is your favorite and why?
3. Jesus heals people of all kinds of infirmities, even death. What infirmity do you long for Jesus to heal right now? How might your group pray for not only the healing, but also your faith as you wait on Jesus?
4. While some saw & believed in Jesus, others laughed or mocked Him. Who do you long to know Jesus? Spend some time praying for these unbelievers.

Matthew 9:35-39

1. Jesus' ministry was in word (teaching & proclaiming) and deed (healing). How have you seen the power of the gospel in word and deed recently in your life?
2. Verse 36 says that "when [Jesus] saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." What does that reveal about Jesus' character? How might that encourage your heart today with whatever struggle you face?
3. When Jesus looked out over the crowds, He called His disciples to minister with Him. Who is Jesus calling you to care for today? How might your group pray for you in this endeavor?
4. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few." Spend some time praying for our overseas gospel partners who serve in hard-to-reach places where there are few laborers. Contact Pastor Scott if you'd like to get more involved in caring for our missionaries or possibly even going yourself.