

Matthew 9:1-26

Faith Pictures

Chapter nine: Theme: It would be Faith – Jesus is going to make mention of it several times – in healings that take place in this chapter.

A) Entitled this message: Faith Pictures – because that is what we see here are different pictures of faith.

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. { Jesus is back in Capernaum } 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. { Mark fills in the gaps a little in our story. Mark Chapter 2. Mark tells us that there were four guys that brought this man.

B) The House is packed – there is a line to get in – I HATE LINES Give up

1) One time at college Christian Concerts – Friend – follow me – Hey John – no John – we get up there – right to the front – 10 people in front of us

C) Well these guys don't have that option: Mark says – Roof

Roofs – Patio – House made of clay:

A) Breaking through the ceiling: Banging – debris is falling

B) Probably Peter's house: His wife who was healed – ever since that day

1) Crowds – The whole city shows up { What is going on

C) Another day: Another packed house:

1) Now she is going to have a hole in her roof

So these guys are digging through the ceiling – opening: Jesus is looking up: **When Jesus saw their faith,** { Now this is interesting:

A) **HE SAW THEIR FAITH:** Many groups will try to say, "You're not healed because you don't have enough faith." I don't read that this man had any faith at all.

B) He had no choice – His friends said – taking you to Jesus! – GROUP FAITH!

Matthew 18:19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰ For

where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

C) GROUP FAITH! Jesus was responding to what he perceives in them.

1) Not in the man who was Paralyzed.

D) Interesting those today who say, "That person is not healed because he didn't have enough faith."

E) No record of this man having any faith! His friends did

Jesus' response:

He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

A) **Cheer up man, be courageous would be another translation. "Your sins are forgiven you."**

B) **Reactions: Friends: What! We didn't do all this for that – sins forgiven – we want him to walk**

C) **Religious leaders: 3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, { Crazy and very uncomfortable to be around someone like that? He reads their thoughts like we read a book or text. 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"**

D) Their reaction: Blasphemy

Reaction: Of the Man: Tradition tells us this man was paralyzed because of a sexual sin.

A) Don't know for sure but the prior thinking in that culture regarding sickness was not right with God

B) Many Jewish people including Scribes and Pharisees were that, if you have a disease, /sickness

1) If you are paralyzed it is because there is sin in your life.

C) **Sick people were religiously shunned – So sad – never the heart of God!**

1) Remember Job's buddies – Same thing:

D) Eliphaz "Who being innocent ever perished?"

1) Is it to say this is universal fact, if you were a righteous person you wouldn't be suffering this.

E) Obviously, you've sin greatly. You are not innocent.

So sad – never the heart of God!

A) Those in the church today: try and lay that same trip. Not enough faith or sin in your life

B) When I hear that – so and so is not being healed because of their lack of faith or their sin

1) I like to take them to this passage or to Mark 2 and say: Notice – Jesus saw THEIR FAITH – his buddies

C) You seem to have enough faith for everyone so you pray for the healing –

1) See if God honors your faith!

So whether this man was paralyzed because of His sin or not – that was the stigma that would have been placed on him in that culture.

A) So this man I believe was excited to hear those words – relieved

B) Jesus is always after the heart – He knows this guy's heart – You are forgiven!!!!

C) Jesus asked an interesting question:

5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 7 And he arose and departed to his house.

Interesting question: Which is easier to say: Human perspective: Son your sins are forgiven

A) No proof that is the reality.

B) Harder to say Rise take up your bed and walk? That is going to require a miracle.

C) And the outward miracle, the outward power demonstrates the inward authority.

1) Jesus demonstrates the inward authority by saying to the paralytic, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

That you might know that the son of man has the power internally, watch this externally.

A) One proves the other that you may know that the son of man has power on earth to forgive sins.

B) In REALITY FOR JESUS – HARDER TO SAY: SINS ARE FORGIVEN –

1) that would take him going to the cross. – Pay the price for sins. –

C) To heal he just spoke – to forgive he had to die.

1) Jesus could say that because He knew what He was going to do for this man

8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Application for us:

A) 4 friends who are doing what is necessary to get their friend to Jesus – Application for us: Do we do that with our friends?

B) This guy was paralyzed and didn't have a choice. Our friends can hold back – but at the very least we can bring them to Jesus in Prayer.

9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

A) I love how Matthew records this: Jesus saw a man-

B) That is not what others saw – they saw a Tax collector –

1) Tax collectors were so despised – especially Jewish ones like Matthew – ultimate traitor.

C) Taxes were collected by the Roman government under a system known as tax farming.

1) A franchise was sold to the highest bidder.

D) The highest bidder was able to collect taxes for Rome

1) but could add as much as he wanted to add and keep it for himself and give the requirement to Rome.

So this made Matthew very rich and very resented.

A) They hated him

B) Jewish men like Matthew turned tax collectors were barred from synagogue worship.

C) So that means this guy hadn't been in a church for a long time, kept from the synagogue.

D)SO WHEN EVERYONE ELSE LOOKED AT MATTHEW – SAW A tax collector.

JESUS SAW A MAN:

A)Good for us to hear: we see a prostitute: Jesus sees a woman.

B)We see a drug dealer or gang banger – Jesus sees a man

C)Talked to a few parents last few months – kids turned to Homosexuality – hard

1)We see a Homosexual – we see a Lesbian – Jesus sees a man – a woman

D)He sees a mixed up kid or person – we have to remember that!

Note, it is interesting that in Mark & Luke's gospel account of this story they use Matthew's given name

A)His Hebrew name – Levi – probably from the priestly line.

B)But in his own account – Matthew doesn't use that name

1)he uses the name Matthew which some believe – Jesus probably gave him

C))Jesus was into changing names: Simon – Peter - possibly he changed the name of Levi to Matthew –

1)If He did – really interesting: Matthew means – Gift of God.

D)He gives us the gift of this gospel – this wonderful picture of Jesus as the King

1)The fulfillment of the OT prophecies

Speaks to us of this reality: Jesus doesn't just see a man

A)He sees what that man is going to become in relationship with Him

B)No one looks at you this way right now- but this is how I see you.

C)Peter – Simon to Peter = Rock –

1)Sometimes Peter acted like a block head – but in reality He would become a Rock in the church.

So Jesus calls Matthew: Matthew had heard. Matthew had seen. Matthew had pondered.

A)Now one day Jesus walked up to him and said, "I want you, come follow me."

Luke's gospel tells us this, Matthew left everything he had and he went and he followed Jesus immediately."

B)Left everything- but lost NOTHING –

C)Matthew probably had more to give up than any of the other disciples.

1)He was very wealthy and if you worked for the Roman government as a tax collector and you quit that job, you can never return to that job.

D)LEFT EVERYTHING – LOST NOTHING – HE ONLY GAINED!

I love what Matthew does next: NEW FAITH: Throws a "Let me introduce you to Jesus" party: 10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.

A)MATTHEW gets creative: I like to see people trying different ways to share the gospel.

B)Barb Pool in Bars - Listen for an hour invite to Bible studies - Matthew is getting creative here:

1)Vance Havner one said, "The gospel is not a secret to be hoarded, it's a story to be heralded."

There's a great old story when Oliver Cromwell ruled England

A)During the time of crisis and he was looking for silver and gold to mint coins with because it was scarce in those days.

C)His army came to him one day and said, "There is no more gold and silver to be found in all of the land except," they said, "The metal statues in the cathedrals in England.

D)And Cromwell smiled then said, "Melt down those saints and put them back into circulation."

May God put us into circulation.

A)May God melt our hearts, our lives, make us pliable and get us into circulation,

B)Not as finger pointers like the Pharisees, but as fellow partners with God seeking to introduce people to Jesus – words and our actions

C)Sometimes We have the tendency to isolate more than circulate: Get intentional

D)So Jesus is hanging out with Matthew and his buddies – wrong crowd

11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with **tax collectors and sinners?**” {Always together – They thought to eat with someone was to become one with them. –

A)Ceremonially unclean. - Doesn't he know who these people are?

12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

B)Interesting statement: You know if you think about it, becoming a Christian is very similar to getting fixed of a disease,
1)getting cured of an illness

C)You will never get cured of a disease until you first admit, "I have a disease. I'm sick."
1)I need a doctor.

Some people in real life are stubborn – I am not sick –I don't need to go to the doctor.

A)Then they die or something tragic happens to get their attention.

B)Same thing is true spiritually – before you can be made well – you need to admit – I am sick
1)I am a sinner and I need a savior.

C)Sometimes in evangelism you have to convince people of that. They need to know that they are not well
1)They need to understand that they are sinners

D)Others – they get it – they know they are sick and they just need to know – God loves you – gospel

So Jesus says it is the sick who need a doctor and I am the doctor making a HOUSE CALL!

A)Problem with the religious leaders is they thought they were well – righteous when in reality

–NOT SO

B)I love this in the heart of our Lord – this is the riff raff of Capernaum –

1)The Crowd no one wants to claim and Jesus says **I WILL TAKE THEM!**

C)I love them – they are the ones I have come for

“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: **‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.**”

A)Here Jesus quoted Hosea 6:6 In Hosea's day, God's people were still good at bringing sacrifice

B)but they had forsaken mercy, and they abandoned mercy because they gave up the knowledge of God and truth

C)These words are the more arresting when we remember that they were addressed to the teachers of men...

D)The rebuke of Christ showed that they did not know God,

1)and He bade them to go and learn the meaning of their own Scriptures

God would rather have right hearts, full of truth and mercy than sacrifice.

A)Jesus commended the Pharisees tithing: this you should do – but rebuked them for their hearts – neglecting the needy.

14 Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?”

A)Now, we have disciples of John the Baptist who are not yet followers of Christ.

B)Now, I find this interesting. I'll tell you why.
1)John's whole ministry was to point people to Jesus and prepare the way of Jesus –

C)It seems that these are guys who missed the message and got caught up in the man.

Maybe they were drawn to John's persona – His message Repent: They missed Jesus!

A) Still happens today: People get attached to a Man or a movement and they miss Jesus

B) These guys were disciples of John and they are more legalistic – like the Pharisees –
1) MISERY LOVES COMPANY.

C) I am not having any fun so neither can you. We are fasting – how come you are not?

According to the Law of Moses, the Jews were required to fast. Once a year – Maybe

A) I say maybe because the only reference we have of a requirement to fast

B) is the language that comes to us out of **Leviticus Chapter 16 and Leviticus 23**

1) It is about the Day of Atonement, the Yom Kippur. In that passage, God says, "**In the seventh month on the 10th day, you shall afflict your souls.**"

C) That's all it says, afflict to your souls. What does that mean? It's a good question.

D) Another translation is you shall humble yourself.

Now over time it began to be believed that to afflict your souls or to humble yourself was to not eat.

A) So, it became mandatory to fast once a year on Yom Kippur, the 10th day of the 7th Jewish month.

Now by the time of Jesus, many of the righteous people, the Pharisees, Scribes fasted twice a week,

A) **Nothing wrong with that.** Except the days they've chose to fast were Mondays and Thursdays.

B) Those just happened to be the busiest days in the market.

1) Days that they would be seen by the most – Remember Sermon on the Mount - **do it to be seen by men**

2) Should be the opposite:

C) So these Disciples of John are following suit here

Wondering why the Disciples of Jesus are not

15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with

them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

D) Using the idea of the wedding: groomsmen are not fasting – they are feasting – days leading up to 1) Once the bridegroom goes then they can fast.

E) Jesus isn't putting down fasting – saying there is a time for it.

Same is true in our lives:

A) Right time: When you can focus on the Lord Time to set aside – break in the routine

B) Fasting is not a way to twist God's arm.

1) It's not a way to say, "God I'm so sincere and I'll really be a good boy or girl and look at me

C) I'll fast if you give me that." That's not what it is.

Fasting is saying: I'm focusing on spiritual things and I'm refusing to focus on physical.

A) One guy told me – Fasting from YouTube – social media – two things happened

B) One God really spoke to him – and Two he realized how much time he wasted.....

C) Jesus gives a further insight

16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. 17 Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Jesus came to establish a new covenant – not to reform the old one!

A) Paul the apostle in the book of Romans and Galatians tells us the purpose of the OC – Law

B) Galatians: School Master to show us where we were off – Sinners – Missed the mark

C) The purpose of the OC was two fold – Show us we were sick and need a Doctor

1) And all the festivals and sacrifices attached to the OC system were pictures of Jesus.

So Jesus is saying: Don't put a new patch on old garment – Wash it - it shrinks – tears {We get that

A) And you don't put new wine into old wineskins
Harder to understand.

B) Wine was stored in wineskins – New wine – new wine skin – when it would ferment – expand

1) The new wine would stretch the skin

C) But if you put new wine into an old skin – one that was already stretched – skin old not as flexible

1) The new wine starts to ferment – expand – the old skin stretches and bursts.

D) Jesus: Saying I am coming to do a new thing not reform an old thing.

Final story: Desperate Faith – Fascinating – Mark's account better.

18 While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, {Ruler = caretaker:

A) He is not the rabbi, but he takes care of the synagogue. – in Mark – his name is Jairus

B) He takes care of the offerings – He schedules the rabbi's to teach

1) When a rabbi was traveling through – he was the one who would ask him to preach.

C) So he is a man entrenched in Judaism – the religious system.

1) In his desperation he will push beyond the norm

Mark tells us – daughter was 12 – his only daughter and at the point of death.

A) I have two daughters – girls are precious. So full of life – so fun – so delicate – emotional -

B) For 12 years she has filled his home with Joy and laughter and fun! – Dress up – games hide and seek –

C) Taken walks – he has watched her grow into a young lady. – That is all about to end

D) We don't know how long she has been sick – how long he has contemplated going to Jesus,

1) how many times his wife has maybe said: Please go to Jesus – you have seen and heard what He can do.

E) This man finally comes in desperation:

Desperate faith! “My daughter has just died, but

come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.”

19 **So Jesus arose** and followed him, and so did His disciples. {No hesitation on the part of Jesus.

20 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years

A) 12 years period was constant, she is hemorrhaging, -

B) Mark's gospel says she had exhausted all of her resources on Doctors to no avail.

1) Her condition would have meant – she was ceremonially unclean,

C) She is unable to attend the synagogue, - the very synagogue that Jairus is the ruler of

1) so he knows her.

D) He has probably been the one to tell her – she can't come.

1) She is cut off from the temple from the synagogue – all worship life in Israel.

Sad that is what the system in Israel had become

A) Bound up in rules and regulations that pushed out the Lepers and women like this and people like Matthew and his Tax collector buddies.

B) Jesus came to do something new – New wineskins

1) New Covenant – to save to the UTTERMOST

SO this woman came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. 21 For she said to herself, “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.” {Also desperate faith: What have I to lose?

22 But Jesus turned around, {Mark says – who touched me – she comes forward – tells her whole story – Jairus is listening to this whole thing and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; **your faith** has made you well.” **And the woman was made well from that hour.** {Instant

AGAIN Mark's gospel is helpful- at the moment the servants come and say to Jairus, don't bother the master anymore – your daughter has died.

A) Jesus looks at him – eyes meet and says: Don't be afraid only believe – she will be made whole. –

B) Word for you tonight - Fear not – only believe – Made well!

C) Now think about this: You have a 12 year old daughter – and woman suffering – 12 yrs

D) Do you think that is a coincident? – I don't think so – that interruption was by divine design.

1) Divine intersection – placed there to encourage and strengthen Jairus' faith

E) Don't be afraid only believe – Jairus digs in – hold on – they keep going

23 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, {Professional wailers – musicians played a dirge – everyone knew there was a death.

24 He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. {Mark and Luke – they laughed him to scorn: - One minute wailing the next they are laughing: Why?

A) Professionals – no heart here – no real emotion – just doing a Job. -

25 But when the crowd was put outside, {Mark: Jesus put them outside – really would have liked to have seen that – how did He do that – throw them out He went in and took her by the hand, Talitha Cumi – little girl arise:

English: Sweetly it is time to wake up and the girl arose. 26 And the report of this went out into all that land.

Jesus is so Cool!!!!

Come back to this story later: After Easter – The next section: The King answers our questions - Death

Tonight

Group faith: 4 guys willing to do whatever it took to get their friend to Jesus

Matthew: New Faith – I will throw a JESUS PARTY

Creative in getting friends to Jesus

DESPERATE FAITH:

A) Jesus always responds to Desperate faith

B) How desperate are you in seeking Him, drawing near to Him, coming to Him?