

"The Mission of Jesus"

Matthew 9:1-13

Overview



Jesus is many things to many people. To some He is simply a great teacher, dispensing wisdom for a better life. To others He is a revolutionary who succeeded in establishing a new ethic for the human race.

Some see Jesus as a deluded visionary whose tragic death initiated a movement that He had no intention of starting. Still others see Him as a fiction, simply a product of the imagination of a collection of creative writers.

Fortunately Scripture shows us Jesus as He truly was and is, the God-made-man who successfully achieved His mission – to bring physical, emotional and spiritual healing to all those acknowledging their need and brokenness.

Getting Started

Possibilities and Challenges...



1. What was the worst job you ever had? How long did you last at that job (and how did you move on to something different (if you are not still working there))?
 2. If you could do anything for a living, what would you choose to do? Why?
 3. Have you ever broken any bones or had to use crutches? Share that experience with your group.
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The Text



Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town.

² Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

³ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵ Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ⁶ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." ⁷ Then the man got up and went home. ⁸ When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' ^v For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

The Video (optional) “The Mission of Jesus” – Matthew 9:1-13 – by Kyle Corbin, Oct. 24/21
(view at www.immanuelonline.ca).



NOTES: _____

Understanding



1. Where does Jesus travel to next in this account (vs. 1)? Who comes out to greet Him (vs. 2)? How does the attitude of these greeters differ from the attitude of the people He has just left (see 8:34)?
2. What blessing does Jesus bestow upon the paralytic man (vs. 2)? How do you imagine the man would have reacted to such a gift?
3. How do the religious leaders react to Jesus' words (vs. 3)? Why would they react in such a way?
4. What does Jesus see in their attitude and in their hearts (vs. 4)? Would it not make sense for them to question Jesus' statement? How then is what they have said "evil"?
5. What question does Jesus pose to the religious leaders in response (vs. 5)? What is the answer to Jesus' question? Which option is harder (and why)?
6. What miracle does Jesus perform at this moment (vs. 6-8)? Why does He choose to act in this way? Why does He refer to Himself as the "Son of Man" (see Daniel 7:13-14)? Does the miracle have its intended effect (i.e. do the people come to understand what Jesus is trying to tell them)?
7. Who does Jesus next call to be one of His followers (vs. 9)? What impact does this calling have (vs. 10)?
8. Why do the religious leaders question Jesus' actions (and His decision to keep the company of the people He is with) (vs. 11)? How does Jesus respond to their implied criticism (vs. 12-13)?

Applying



1. Whose faith brings about the pronouncement of forgiveness for the paralytic man (vs. 2, see also Mark 2:1-5)? Does this mean others can have their sins forgiven because of our faith? If not, why would Jesus make such a pronouncement?
2. When Jesus moves to reward the faith that He sees (vs. 2) He chooses to do so with an assurance of forgiveness. What might this suggest about what Jesus sees as ultimately important? How might that differ from what we value in terms of God's blessings?
3. Jesus employs a dramatic miracle to reinforce the power He possesses (vs. 6). Where do you see the power of God at work today? How would you encourage people to "reset" where they may be looking for the power for living?
4. Despite being social outcasts, it would appear the "tax collectors and sinners" were exceedingly comfortable in Jesus' presence (vs. 10). What is it about Jesus that would have prompted such a response? Do you feel comfortable and at rest in Him? What is it about Jesus that allows you to feel that way?
5. What practical ways do you think we can model Jesus' approach to the outcast? How can we extend the offer of welcome and "rest"?
6. "Discipleship is not for the comfortable and respectable, but for those whom conventional society would rather keep at arm's length." (R. A. France). Agree? Disagree? Discuss the implications of your answer.
7. Jesus said to His critics "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." He told them to go and learn what that meant (vs. 13). What do you think it means (consider Hosea 6:6)?
8. The focus of Jesus' work (at least in this passage) is on the "sick" and the "sinner" (vs. 12-13). How well do we reflect this priority in the work of the church? In what way would you suggest we maintain and/or increase this "rehab" emphasis in the work of Christ?
9. In this passage we can identify the "reset", "rest" and "rehab" aspects of Christ's mission. Which of these do you feel you need to experience more in your walk with Christ? How will you pursue that?

Memory Verse(s)



"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:13 (NIV)

Extra Resources



- ❖ *"The Mission of Jesus" – Matthew 9:1-13* – by Kyle Corbin, Oct. 24/21 (sermon, view at www.immanuelonline.ca). This sermon examines key elements of Jesus' mission as seen in Christ's healing of a paralytic.
- ❖ *"The Healing Power of Forgiveness"* - by Greg Morse (article at www.desiringgod.org), Feb. 5, 2018). Morse helps us see the greater gift Jesus gave when he healed the paralytic.
- ❖ *"Jesus' Healing Ministry"* – by Jerry Bridges (article at www.ligonier.org, April 19, 2008). In this article Bridges talks about Jesus' motives for healing and the role our faith plays in the process.