### Matthew

## Chapter 9

1So then he stepped back into the boat, and they traveled back to the town where he’d been staying. 2And when he got there, {Look!} some people brought him a paralyzed man who was lying on a cot.  
  
Then when he saw that the man had a lot of faith, Jesus said to him:  
  
 ‘Take courage child; your sins are forgiven.’  
  
3However, {Look!} some Scribes [who heard him say this] were thinking to themselves:  
  
 ‘He’s blaspheming!’  
  
4But Jesus (who knew what they were thinking) asked them:  
  
 ‘Why are you thinking such wicked things in your hearts? 5Is it easier to say, your sins are forgiven, or just, get up and walk? 6However, I want you to know that the Son of Man has the power to forgive sins here on the earth.’  
  
So at that, he said to the paralyzed man:  
  
 ‘Now, get up, pick up your cot, and go home.’  
  
7And the man just got up and went home!  
  
8Well when the crowds saw this, they were all frightened and they started praising The God who gives such powers to men. 9So thereafter, he left that place.  
  
As he was traveling on, Jesus noticed a man named Matthew sitting in a tax office, and he said to him:  
  
 ‘Be my follower.’  
  
And immediately, [Matthew] got up and started following him.  
  
10Then later, while [Jesus] was reclining at a table in [Matthew’s] home, {Look!} many tax collectors and sinners started coming in and reclining next to Jesus and his disciples. 11But on seeing this, the Pharisees asked [Jesus’] disciples:  
  
 ‘Why is your teacher eating with these tax collectors and sinners?’  
  
12Well, [Jesus] overheard them saying this, so he told them:  
  
 ‘Healthy people don’t need doctors… Only the sick do.13Now, go and learn the meaning of the words, I want mercy, not sacrifice. For I didn’t come here to call the righteous, just the sinners.’  
  
14Then some of John’s disciples came to [Jesus] and said to him:  
  
 ‘We and the Pharisees always fast… So, why don’t your disciples fast?’  
  
15And Jesus answered:  
  
 ‘The bridegroom’s friends don’t have any reason to be sad when he’s with them, do they? However, the day is coming when the bridegroom will be taken away from them… And then they’ll fast.’  
  
 16‘Understand that nobody sews a patch of un-shrunk cloth onto old clothes, because its [shrinking] strength will pull the clothes and make the tear worse.  
  
 17‘And people don’t put new wine into old wineskins; for if they do, the old wineskins will burst, spilling the wine and ruining the skins… This is why people put new wine into new wineskins, so that both things are preserved.’  
  
18Well, as he was saying this, {Look!} a certain ruler came up and bowed low before him, saying:  
  
 ‘By now my daughter may have died… So please come and lay your hands on her to bring her back to life!’  
  
19Therefore, Jesus got up and followed the man (as did his disciples).  
  
20However, [as he was on the way], {Look!} a woman who had suffered from a blood flow for some 12 years came up behind him and touched the fringes on his robe. 21[She did this] because she kept saying:  
  
 ‘If I can just touch his clothes, I’ll be saved [from this illness].’  
  
22Then when Jesus turned around and saw her, he said to her:  
  
 ‘Take courage daughter; your faith has saved you.’  
  
And from that time on, the woman was healed.  
  
23Thereafter, when he got to the house of the ruler and saw flute players and a wailing crowd, 24Jesus said:  
  
 ‘You should all leave now, because the little girl isn’t really dead, she’s just sleeping!’  
  
Well, everyone started laughing and making fun of him because of this. 25But after the crowd had been ushered outside, [Jesus] went in and took hold of her hand, and the little girl stood up!  
  
26So, word of what happened there was quickly spread throughout that whole area.  
  
27Then, just as Jesus was leaving that place, two blind men came up and started following him, hoarsely shouting:  
  
 ‘Have pity on us, O Son of David!’  
  
28And when he entered the house [where he was staying], these blind men followed him inside. So Jesus asked them:  
  
 ‘Do you really believe that I can do this thing?’  
  
And they answered:  
  
 ‘Yes, Lord!’  
  
29So he touched their eyes and said:  
  
 ‘As you believed, may it happen to you!’  
  
30And at that, their eyes were opened.  
  
Then Jesus warned them sternly:  
  
 ‘Now, don’t tell anyone about this!’  
  
31But after they left, they started spreading the news [about what he’d done] throughout that whole area.  
  
32And then, before he could leave, {Look!} some more people brought him a man who couldn’t speak, because he was demon possessed. 33And after Jesus cast out the demon, the man was able to speak, which amazed the crowds. So they were saying:  
  
 ‘Nothing like this has ever been seen in IsraEl.’  
  
34However, the Pharisees were saying:  
  
 ‘He’s casting out demons by the ruler of the demons!’  
  
35Well, from there, Jesus traveled throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and curing every sort of disease and infirmity.  
  
36For when he looked at the crowds, he felt pity, because they were scraped and knocked about like sheep without a shepherd.  
  
37Then he said to his disciples:  
  
 ‘There is, in fact, a huge harvest... But there aren’t enough workers. 38So, beg the Master of the harvest to send more workers into the field to do His harvesting.’