

# THE CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE

## Through Jesus' Eyes

Matthew 9

INTRODUCTION: Remember what we are doing in this series of sermons as we move through the gospels.

Today we are in Mt. 9., a series of Jesus' miracles.

As we examine each of these, our minds should be filled with awe and wonder at the power of Jesus, for each miracle is a raving testimony of His deity.

But they also should touch our hearts as we see the tender compassion of our Lord encountering hurting people, and this should comfort us. Because all of us are hurting sometime. Some of you may be in that place this very hour, but if not, you have been there and will be again. As Job said, "Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward."

So we will see both the power and the love of Christ,

- but if we will look **Through Jesus' Eyes** we will see more.
- We will see what He saw,
- and then perhaps we will understand His response to it all
- and obey His command as a result.

Let's see ... **WHAT JESUS SAW AND WHAT HE DID**

**Mt. 9:1-7 – JESUS SAW A PARALYZED MAN, FORGAVE HIS SIN, AND HEALED HIM.**

Matthew 9:5–7 NKJV 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.

Jesus did two miracles here.

- He completely healed the paralytic so he could immediately walk back to his house.
- He forgave the man's sins.

But did you notice which Jesus did first?

- He forgave his sins!
- And this was the greater of the two.
  - Jesus said it was far better to even lose a limb than to have them all and be cast into hell.
  - The greater miracle is that the man's sins were forgiven.
  - This is the miracle that Jesus has done for all of us who have trusted in Him!
  - This is the miracle He can and will do in your life today if you will allow it by trusting in Him!

Then ... **Mt. 9:9-13 – JESUS CALLED THOSE OTHERS REJECTED TO BE HIS DISCIPLES.**

Matthew 9:13 NKJV ...For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

Do you sometimes feel rejected by others?

- You know you're not in the top 95% at work.
- You know you are far from the most popular guy or gal in your social circles.
- Let me tell you, you are probably still way ahead of Matthew!
- But Jesus wanted Matthew to follow Him just as he was. Jesus had designed Matthew with his particular abilities and talents, or lack thereof.
- Jesus knew Matthew's sins, and was willing to forgive them; and He was willing to do what was necessary to change Matthew from a traitor to his own people to a man who would write the gospel we are presently reading which was addressed especially for his people the Jews.
- And Jesus is doing the same in many of your lives.
- And He is willing to do the same in every life in this room, if you will follow Him.

Next ... **Mt. 9:20-22 – JESUS SAW A WOMAN OF FAITH AND HEALED HER OF A LIFELONG AILMENT.**

Matthew 9:22 NKJV But Jesus turned around, 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.

Faith has much in common with prayer. The two work well together.

- Faith won't get you everything you want.
- Faith will get you everything God knows is right and best for you to have.

Then ... **Mt. 9:18-19, 23-26 – JESUS RAISED A DEAD GIRL TO LIFE.**

**Matthew 9:25 NKJV** But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.

Hallelujah! Ultimately, this is what Jesus does for each of us who trust in Him. When death claims this old body, the Lord Jesus reaches down and says to death, "You can't keep him. You cannot have her. She is mine!" And He takes us to His home in heaven, and He gives us the power to live with Him forever! Glory!

And ... **Mt. 9:27-31 – JESUS SAW TWO BLIND MEN AND BROUGHT LIGHT BACK INTO THEIR LIVES.**

**Matthew 9:29 NKJV** Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

- We have a brother who worships with us who knows how wonderful this miracle was!
- But you know, there are a lot of people whose physical sight is perfectly good but whose lives are filled with darkness.
- And whether you are struggling against physical darkness or moral darkness or spiritual darkness, Jesus is the One who can bring the light back into your life, if you will trust and follow Him.

And then, **Mt. 9:32-34 – JESUS SAW A MUTE MAN CONTROLLED BY A DEMON AND CAST THE DEMON OUT.**

**Matthew 9:33 NKJV** And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

- Again Jesus does the most important miracle first.
- He cast out the demon controlling the man.
- When He did, the man could talk. It was the demon who had taken away his ability to speak.
- Folks, Satan and his demons only want to steal, kill, and destroy. They will masquerade as angels of light. They will appear to want to do you good, but it is a lie. They want to destroy you. And they will if you give them sufficient opportunity.

- This is why Jesus taught us to pray, "...and deliver us from the evil one."

All of these things Jesus saw, but He saw more than that. And it is really in the "more than that" that we find a collective message to every one of us who would say, "I am a Jesus follower."

**Matthew 9:36–38 NKJV** 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered,

**like sheep having no shepherd.**

37 Then He said to His disciples,

**"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.**

38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

### **JESUS SAW PEOPLE AS SHEEP WHO NEEDED A SHEPHERD.**

The individuals Jesus encountered were very different from each other.

- Male and female
- Young and old
- One paralyzed
- One with a longtime hemorrhage
- Two were blind
- Another demon possessed and mute
- One a traitor to his own people

Jesus saw that every one of them had something in common:

- They were all sheep, and therefore, they were headed for slaughter.
- The all needed a shepherd.

Jesus said, in **John 10:11 NKJV** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

This is true of each of us.

- We are all like sheep, each wandering our own way.
- We are all headed for hell if left to our own devices and merits.

That is why we need Jesus as our Good Shepherd.

But Jesus wants us to see that this is true of everybody we know.

- That man may be my cousin, but he is a sheep who needs a shepherd.
- That girl may be in my algebra class, but she is a sheep who needs a shepherd.
- That lady may be my doctor, but she is a sheep who needs a shepherd.
- That little boy may be my next door neighbor's son, but he, and his dad, are sheep who need a shepherd.

Each of them needs Jesus! He alone can be their Shepherd to guide them and their Savior to give them eternal life.

But that is still not all that Jesus saw!

### **JESUS SAW PEOPLE AS A HARVEST FIELD NEEDING WORKERS.**

**Matthew 9:37 NKJV** Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few."

Jesus knew that one day there would be a harvest of all the souls who live upon the earth.

- Some would be harvested and brought home to live with Him forever.
- Others would be harvested and thrown into the fire that burns with Sulphur for eternity.

And only those who trust in Jesus, letting Him become their Good Shepherd, acknowledging Him as the Lord of their lives will be a part of the harvest to live with Him.

And the only way they will trust in Jesus is if they hear the gospel.

And the only way they will hear the gospel is if somebody tells them.

**Romans 10:14 NKJV** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

- First, let me be quick to tell you here. The word for preacher does not just mean a vocational pastor or preacher. We are included, but so are you if you are a believer.

- A preacher here is somebody who proclaims, tells, shares the gospel with people who are a harvest field.
- Jesus said this harvest field of people needs workers.
  - Do you work in the harvest fields helping to get the gospel to people?
  - You know, this church is very gospel centered and gets the gospel out in a lot of ways to a lot of people in a lot of places.
  - Center of Hope Ministries (4 saved in Benevolence in one day this week!)
  - All of our services, classes, meetings.
  - Every age group.
  - All of our mission trips: Mexico, Brazil, China, Malaysia, India, Africa, everywhere!
  - If you work in any ministry of this church, you help get the gospel out!
  - Sadly, our number of workers has decreased during COVID – in every area.
  - We need to correct that. Greeter Ministry, Preschool, Children, Youth, Adults
  - If you are a follower of Christ, you should be working somehow, somewhere that results in the gospel going out,

Because Jesus said, **Matthew 9:37 NKJV** Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest.