



“FOLLOW ME!!!” **MATTHEW Chapter 9:9-38**

> **(v9-13) Matthew, Follow Me!**

(v9-11) Matthew about Matthew – He answered the Savior’s call, “Follow Me” and his life was never the same!

> **Matthew was a man of:**

- **RESPONSE!** - **John 10:27-30** - *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."*

- **REPENTANCE!** – **Look what Matthew wrote, Matthew 4:17** - *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Herbert Lockyer extols Matthew’s new life by saying, “The outcast was called by Christ to a better occupation, to better wealth than silver and gold, to serve a better King than Caesar.”

- **RECONCILIATION!** – **Notice the people he invited to his feast for Jesus, other tax collectors and sinners!**

We are told in 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 - *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

- **Food for thought:** The Pharisees did not believe in eating with tax collectors and sinners. Many saints today still have the same idea. It doesn’t hurt to invite sinners to dinner because they are the ones who need to be reached for Christ. We need to have some contact with sinners.

- **Another tidbit, could the *Parable of the Pharisee & the Tax Collector* be about Matthew?** Let’s read **Luke 18:10-14** – *Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

- **Have our lives come to this point of brokenness before God? I pray we have!**

(v13) “I desire mercy” – What is MERCY? (Heb. *hesed*, "kindness"; Gk. *eleos*, "compassion"). -
- **Mercy is a form of love determined by the state or condition of its objects. Their state is one of suffering and need, while they may be unworthy or ill-deserving.**

- **Mercy is at once the disposition of love respecting such, and the kindly ministry of love for their relief.**

- **Mercy is a Christian grace and is very strongly urged toward all men (Matt 5:7; 23:23; James 3:17).**

- J. Dwight Pentecost writes, “Mercy is God’s ministry to the miserable. It is both intensely personal and immensely practical. For when I am treated unfairly, God’s mercy relieves my bitterness. When I grieve over loss, it relieves my pain and anger and denial. When I struggle with disability, it relieves my self-pity. When I endure physical pain, it relieves my hopelessness. When I deal with being sinful, it relieves my guilt.”

- Embrace God’s MERCY toward you! Micah 7:18-19 - *Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*

Also, Titus 3:4-7 - *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

- Let’s have MERCY toward others: Proverbs 3:3-4 - *Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.*

- Proverbs 11:17 - *The merciful man does good for his own soul, but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.*

- Micah 6:8 - *He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*

- There’s also the attitude of mercy in Romans 12:8 - he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

> In a hymn John Newton the slave trader, who was saved by God’s “Amazing Grace” describes the transforming power of Christ:

*In evil long I took delight,
Unawed by shame or fear,
Till a new object struck my sight,
And stopped my wild career.
I saw One hanging on a tree,
In agony and blood;
He fixed His loving eyes on me,
As near His cross I stood.
How can it be, upon a tree
The Savior died for Me?
My soul is thrilled, my heart is filled,
To think He died for me.*

> (v14-17) What a Friend we have in Jesus!

(v14) Why did they fast? Much of the Pharisee’s fasting was for a religious show, not for spiritual purposes (Mt. 5:16-18). Fasting, however, could also be done for other reasons. It was sometimes done as a sign of distress, grief, or repentance. John the Baptist disciples were of this kind of fasting.

(v15-17) There are three enlightening illustrations in this passage:

(1) *Friends of the bridegroom* - Jesus is the bridegroom and He is with them, thus there is no reason to mourn through fasting. But when He is crucified, they will then mourn with fasting.

(2) *Unshrunk cloth on an old garment* – Jesus is saying that His "new" doctrines do not MATCH with the old rites of the Pharisees. Their doctrines require much fasting. The way of Jesus was incongruous with their legalistic performance.

(3) *Old wineskins and new wine* - New skins or bottles would YIELD to the fermenting wine and be strong enough to hold it from bursting. Old wineskins (previously stretched) would burst if filled with new wine. In other words, do not try to mix the new wine of Christ (new covenant) with the unusable religion of the Pharisees.

> ***(v18-26) Have Faith in Jesus Christ!***

(v22) **Was it the woman's faith that healed her or was it the person of whom she placed her faith.** The latter, faith in Jesus who is the healer brings healing for eternity.

- In **Philippians 3:20-21** it says, *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

(v23-26) **Jesus has healed many, but now He will raise a twelve-year-old girl from the dead!**

- In this passage we discover that Jesus is an equal opportunity healer, listen to the contrast as explained by **Warren Wiersbe**, "It is interesting that Jairus and this woman—two opposite people—met at the feet of Jesus. Jairus was a leading Jewish man; she was an anonymous woman with no prestige or resources. He was a synagogue leader, while her affliction kept her from worship. Jairus came pleading for his daughter; the woman had a need of her own. The girl had been healthy for 12 years, and then died; the woman had been ill for 12 years and was now made whole. Jairus' need was public—all knew it; but the woman's need was private—only Jesus understood. Both Jairus and the woman trusted Christ, and He met their needs."

> ***(v27-35) Jesus Brings FREEDOM!!!***

(v27-31) ***Two blind men meet Jesus and are healed!***

How? First, they were able to see from their hearts through the Law and the Prophets, they declared Jesus as "the Son of David," this is a Messianic reference.

- In **Genesis** God reveals that the Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham (Gen. 12:3), through his son Isaac (21:12), his Jacob (Ch. 27), and Judah (49:10); lineages are found in **Matthew Ch. 1** and **Luke Ch. 3**.

- Through the prophet **Nathan**, the Lord told **David** in **2 Samuel 7:12-14, 16** - *"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son . . . And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."*

- When the angel **Gabriel** announced Jesus' birth to **Mary**, he said of Him in **Luke 1:32-33** - *He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*

- **Zacharias**, the father of **John the Baptist** proclaimed of Jesus, *"Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David"* (**Luke 1:68-69**).

- **Joseph** took His expectant wife **Mary** "to the city of David" which is called **Bethlehem**, for **Caesar's** census because **Joseph** was of the house of **David**. The **New Testament** declares

Jesus to be the promised descendant of David who would deliver God's people and establish His eternal kingdom (Jn. 7:42; Acts 2:29-30; Ro. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 5:5; 22:16).

- Even the people cried out as Jesus entered Jerusalem before His crucifixion, "*Hosanna (save now) to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest!*" (Mt. 21:9).

- Jesus asked the two blind men "*Do you believe?*" The word believe in the Greek is *pisteuo* - to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ). The blind men responded with an emphatic "*Yes Lord!*"

- If you want to see the Kingdom of God then say, "**YES!**" to the Lord Jesus Christ! Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

In Romans 10:9-13 - that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

(v32-33) The mute speaks and the demon possessed are delivered! Opposition builds as the Pharisees attribute God's power to Satan working through Jesus. This is evidence of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Mt. 12:25-32).

(v35) Notice the order *teaching, preaching, and healing!*

This is why we spend time teaching through the Bible, we're also told in the Book of Acts 5:28 - "*Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!*"

1 Corinthians 4:17 - *For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.*

1 Corinthians 14:19 - *yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

2 Timothy 2:2-3 - *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

Titus 2:1 - *But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine*

2 Timothy 4:3-5 - *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

> (v36-38) **PRAY, LABOR, HARVEST!**

(v36) Are you moved with *compassion* for the lost? Let's *pray!* Pray like we've never prayed before, whereas, all Christians will become laborers filled with boldness to proclaim the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in these last days!

- Pray that the power of God will work through you, and then share your FAITH through FACTS! FACT #1 – Share your TESTIMONY on how God saved you and is changing your life!

FACT #2 – Share that God loves that person so much that he sent His only Son to die for them, whereas, to save them. (John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*)

**FACT #3 – Let them know that we're all sinners, but God has a wonderful gift for them!
- Romans 3:23 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . . Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

FACT #4 – Lead them in prayer asking God to forgive their sins and inviting Jesus Christ into their heart! (Acts 3:19 - *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.*)

**- It is a FACT that we are to proclaim the “GOOD NEWS” to the WHOLE WORLD!
In Matthew 28:19-20 - *GO therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” Amen.**

The word “GO” is found 1,478 times in the Bible so let's “GO FOR GOD!”