

Matthew 9.18-38

What Only God Can Do

Got some BAD News in E-Mail this Week --- but Still some Hope!

Sadly, I missed the Big WEBINAR – last Monday 2 p.m. Central Time USA
Expert on Church talk: How to Have Great Success in your Easter Services!

Good Ideas?! I TRUST So – Surely, I am NOT Opposed to Good Ideas!

Church in 21st C become SLICK OPERATION – High Tech, High Profits

Hope: If I send this Expert \$9.95 I can DOWNLOAD his WEBINAR!

Text: Matthew strings Together STRANGE SCENES - Almost Comical

Not High Tech – Not Sophisticated – Unusual Way to make Jesus FAMOUS

Chs. 8 & 9 Collection of STORIES: Reveal POWER & Authority of Jesus

Even DEATH is STOPPABLE FOE > Jesus is Son of MAN & Son of DAVID

Matthew selected these specific stories to show that Jesus came not so much to heal us of our physical diseases but to cure us of our sin, our far more serious malady, and to set us on the path of useful service for him. James Boice

UNDERLYING THEME – Jesus does What Only God Can Do

1. Desperate Faith

First we MEET Man & Woman – Matthew has Ruthlessly EDITED the Story
TELESCOPES into Main Truths we GLEAN from their Meetings with Jesus
Pair a STRANGE COUPLE: Man of IMPORTANCE / Woman IGNORED
Mark & Luke: RULER of Synagogue, Name: JAIRUS / Anonymous Woman

a. Isolated Man & Woman – Very Different Social Strata – Both Alone

v. 18 While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him...

AWKWARD Moment – Pharisees CRITICIZING Jesus and His BEHAVIOR
 Jesus EATING with TAX Collectors & Sinners > FEASTING Not FASTING!!
 NOW, RULER of Synagogue – GOOD Guy in Eyes of Pharisees > DEFECTOR
 Thought IN LINE to FLUSTER Jesus w/ Hard Question > FALLS Before Him!

BOWS Respectfully to this BLASPHEMER who CLAIMS to be GOD!!

This Bow to JESUS Seals FATE > Now Joins company of CROSS-BEARERS

Ruler just BEGINS to Feel ISOLATION – POOR Woman felt for 12 years...!

v. 20 And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years...

TOUCHING her was CLEAR Violation of Mosaic LAW

“If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, not at the time of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond the time of her impurity, all the days of the discharge she shall continue in uncleanness. As in the days of her impurity, she shall be unclean. Every bed on which she lies, all the days of her discharge, shall be to her as the bed of her impurity. And everything on which she sits shall be unclean, as in the uncleanness of her menstrual impurity. And whoever touches these things shall be unclean Leviticus 15.25-27

The MOST PIOUS Jewish Leaders go to GREATEST STRIDES to be HOLY
 Strict Jewish Man Responsible to KNOW Whether Woman who May
 BRUSH Against him in CROWD, or SIT Next to him in Boat is UNCLEAN!

b. Incurable

v. 20 And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment

CONDITION was DESPERATE – Both MEDICALLY, esp. SOCIALLY

Condition would have Meant – NOT Marry, if Married GET DIVORCE

PIOUS Jew would have RECOILED in Horror at being Defiled by Gentle Brush

And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone.

Luke 8:43

ANEMIC, ISOLATED, INCURABLE

v. 18 “My daughter has just died...” > Mark says she DIED as he JOURNEYED

Could well have GIVEN UP, TOO LATE, NO HOPE, DEAD is Forever DEAD!

c. Impossible

DEAD GIRL and DYING WOMAN seem HOPELESS – Beyond ANY CURE

v. 18 ...“My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.”

Ruler STILL Presses FORWARD in Faith to Meet Jesus – NOT Deterred!

BOLDLY asks Jesus to RAISE the Dead, KNEELS: Not Worship but HONOR

v. 19 And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples.

Jesus is WILLING to HEAL – Willing to FOLLOW Synagogue RULER

Does NOT Play POLITICS or Calculate HOW He can get Power or Popularity

Matt tells Story to DECLARE the POWER and CHARACTER of JESUS

v. 23 And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,

Official Mourning IMPORTANT Part 1st Century JEWISH Culture

Women Mourners HIRED to WAIL! Minimally 2 & 1 FLUTIST - Even if Poor

v. 24 “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him.

LAUGHED because took Him Literally – KNEW she was REALLY DEAD

v. 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.

PRIVATE DELIVERANCE: NO PAPARATZI, Not even INSTAGRAM

Jesus is **GREATER** than **ELIJAH & ELISHA** – He is the Resurrection & **LIFE**

In due course Jesus will be dying and getting up again, and because of this you and I will likewise be dying and getting up again. Douglas Sean O'Donnell

Martin Luther's beloved **DAUGHTER** Magdalena died at age 14 of Plague

Those who were with Luther at that **BITTER** Hour wrote these words...

Brokenhearted Luther knelt beside her bed and begged God to release her from the pain. Then when she finally died, and the carpenters were nailing down the lid of the coffin, Luther screamed out, "Hammer away!...Hammer away...for on the last day she will rise again."

v. 21 for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well."

Their Desperation led **BOTH** to Confidence that Jesus **CAN HELP** Them!

Desperation may not have been the best of motives, but it drove him to Jesus and that was all that really mattered. It has been the case for many people. They may not have come to Jesus for any other reason but that something in their lives made them desperate. So they came to Jesus and discovered that he did not scorn them for their inadequate or poor motives but met their needs instead. James Boice

Jesus is **MERCIFUL** and **COMPASSIONATE** to **DEAD DAUGHTERS**

Whether **NOBLE** Daughters of Synagogue Ruler / **NOBODY** Daughter!

But **JESUS** sees this Woman as **SOMEBODY**...

She came **TREMBLING** but Went Home **TRIUMPHING**

v. 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

Jesus shows **DIGNITY & RESPECT** to **DESPISED**, Unclean, Woman

URNS & SEES HER – Something very **FEW** People had **EVER DONE**

Most People she met LOOKED the Other Way, or Looked Beyond Her

Jesus could have HEALED in SECRET – Continued on IMPORTANT Mission

Disciples FRUSTRATED! Going to Important Man's House – WASTE of Time!

He sees her HOPEFUL TOUCH as an ACT of GREAT FAITH

Healing DIRECT Result of WORD of Jesus > NOT Magic of Touching Fringe

Faith made you Well > CONDITION of Jesus' Healing Ministry

Our faith may be feeble; our courage may be small; our grasp of the Gospel and its promises, may be weak and trembling – but, after all, the grand question is, Do we really trust only in Christ? Do we look to Jesus, and only Jesus, for pardon and peace? If this be so, it is well. J.C. Ryle

v. 26 And the report of this went through all that district.

NEWS has been CIRCLING Globe for 2000 yrs – Proclaimed today in Beijing

Now Meet 2 Men who HEARD NEWS of Jesus with GREAT HOPE...

2. Determined Faith

a. Messiah Come

v. 27 And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David."

1st in Matthew to CALL Jesus Son of David – but Declared in Very First Verse

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David... Matthew 1.1

Expected DAVIDIC King to bring MESSIANIC Age – Healing MIRACLES

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God... "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened Isaiah 35.2-6

Mercy – God does not give us what we deserve.

Grace – God does give us what we do not deserve.

If Jesus was really the Messiah, the blind reasoned, then he would have mercy on them; and they would have their sight
D. A. Carson

God extends MERCY AND GRACE to the BLIND and HELPLESS
Seem to have Few Worldly Advantages – Sons of King of Heaven and Earth
Many who LAST in This WORLD – Will be FIRST in KINGDOM of God

b. Mercy Claimed vs. 27 “Have mercy on us, Son of David.”

Jesus seems to AVOID them like we TURN from BEGGARS on the SUBWAY

Like Stroll on EMMAUS Road – He appeared to be GOING ON His Way

v. 28 When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.”

TESTS their FAITH – Got helped into House - Jesus Questions in PRIVATE

They reveal PRACTICAL, PERSISTENT Confidence in POWER of Jesus

v. 29 Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.”

Again we see LINK of HEALING TOUCH with HEALING WORD of Jesus

“According to” does not mean ‘in proportion to,’ but rather implies ‘in response to’; the deed matches the faith.
R.T. France

vs. 30,31 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, “See that no one knows about it.” But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

They DEMONSTRATED Faith to BELIEVE and BE HEALED

THEN Quickly DISOBEYED! Did EXACTLY what Jesus asked they NOT DO!

Understandable HARD to Keep QUIET when Receive MIRACLE of SIGHT!

BLIND See their Savior, Cannot HELP Praise – THIS Son of David

3. Declaring Faith

a. Freed to Praise

v. 32 As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him.

PHYSICAL Affliction from DEMON

PRIMARY Problem was POSSESSION > Being MUTE was BY-PRODUCT

DISTINCTION between DISEASE and OPPRESSION / Healing & Deliverance

NOTICE – Never a DELIVERANCE from Demons of MORAL Failure

LITTLE FAITH – Jesus does NOT Drive out a DEMON of UNBELIEF!

Lack of Faith, MORAL Failure and SIN Not Attributed to DEMONS

NO Demon Unbelief, Lust, Lying, Gossip // SINS Unbelief, Lust, Lying, Gossip

OVERCOME Moral Sins by REPENTANCE and PERSEVERING Obedience

Wish Jesus could CHASE Away my DEMON of LUST – Not that EASY!

Life of DAILY DYING to SIN – LOYAL LOVE to my SPOUSE & My Savior

IF Fall – Get Up by God's GRACE and KEEP ON Walking in FAITH

v. 33 And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke.

Demon made them Mute – Now Declared their Faith — Delivered to Declare
This Healing > Explain what Salvation IS & Where it Leads: Speaking for Jesus

b. Followers Polarized AMAZED Crowds speak *about* Jesus:

vs. 33 And the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel."

ANGRY Pharisees speak *against* Jesus – Outshined, Ashamed, Blame Satan

v. 34 But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.”

The scribes taunted and nothing happened. Jesus spoke and demons fled, storms were settled, dead were raised, sins forgiven... His authority in deeds and words was nothing less than the presence of the Kingdom of God. G.E. Ladd

Matt writes to his COMMUNITY to Remind them JESUS Can Meet their Needs
Opposition THEY Faced & WE Face are NOT NEW – Just like Jesus’ DAY
OPPOSITION will KEEP BUILDING thru this Gospel until Nailed to CROSS
Those who have been TOUCHED and TRANSFORMED by Jesus MUST Speak

Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.
John 9.39-41

4. Deploying the Faithful

a. Kingdom Declared

v. 35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

Matt looks BACKWARD and FORWARD at What Jesus DID & WILL DO
TEACHING, PREACHING, HEALING > ALL Cities and VILLAGES

MINISTRY of Word – CENTRAL to MINISTRY of Jesus & His Church

CENTRAL Event of Christian Worship is PREACHING on Sundays

“devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching”
1 Timothy 4.13

Must also INCLUDE – Devotional Reading, Small Groups, Classes, Counseling

EXPLAINING & APPLYING Word of God various LARGE & SMALL Groups

b. Kingdom Displayed RELIGIOUS Ldrs failed to SHEPHERD God's Sheep

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. Ezekiel 34.15,16

OT Pictures of Israel's Shepherds mostly Negative: False, Selfish, Negligent

Micaiah predicted the death of King Ahab at Ramoth Gilead, saying,
 "I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd" 1 Kings 22:17

Jesus is Good Shepherd, True Shepherd > Searches until All Lost Sheep Found

v. 36 When the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without he saw a shepherd.

MOVED by COMPASSION – lit. GUT REACTION

Moved by Sheep being 'Torn and Thrown Down' / Unprotected from Predators

Disabled – Poor – Rejected – Deformed – Disturbed – Diseased – DEAD in SIN

Having been Lost Sheep OURselves WE Must have Compassion on other sheep

They also Belong to Jesus > need to be Brought into the ONE Sheep-fold

Christian mission starts with the compassion of Christ...ask a Muslim cleric if "God is love" in any kind of personal way...ask him if the second greatest commandment is to "love your neighbor as yourself"...tell a Buddhist that benevolence has nothing to do with merit, and then watch him pretend not to get mad at you...tell a Brahmin, a priest from the highest Hindu cast, to care for the sick and dying of Calcutta...the way that old European nun Mother Theresa did...dressed with Christian compassion. Douglas Sean O'Donnell

Without the COMPASSION of JESUS CHRIST – World would have NO

HOSPITALS – ORPHANAGES – LIBRARIES or UNIVERSITIES

Jesus TOUCHES Woman with Discharge, Dead Girl, Blind Men
 INTENTIONALLY Contracts RITUAL IMPURITY
 TOUCHING a CORPSE made a Person UNCLEAN for 7 Days

When Jesus touched the *unclean*, He contracted their...defilement; *but He also conveyed His health!* Is this not what He did for us on the cross when He was made sin for us?
 Warren Wiersbe

People Jesus TOUCHED were NO LONGER Unclean, HE made them CLEAN

HOW do WE in 21st C church SHOW Jesus and His KINGDOM

Some DEFAULT To – Skits, Movies, Dance, Exciting Programs!

NOTICE – MANY People in WORLD Not Interested – Many TURNED OFF!

1st C church > People SAW Jesus & Kingdom His People OBEYED Him!

God BAPTIZED Church with Holy Spirit on Great Once-for-All Day Pentecost

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
 Acts 2.42

God struck down PROUD King HEROD “eaten by worms and died”!!

But the word of God increased and multiplied. Acts 12.24

New Ephesians Believers BURNED Valuable MAGIC Books

So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily. Acts 19.20

We should learn that our best and most effective response to those who hate, criticize, or slander us is merely to keep doing the right thing. We can always answer our enemies by doing good...We teach the Bible, preach the gospel, and heal sin-sickness, as the Holy Spirit blesses our words and brings people to Christ.
 James Boice

c. King gets job Done!

vs. 37,38 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Jesus MINISTRY Prepared his DISCIPLES to FOLLOW His Ministry Example
 Authority and Power of Jesus Ministry EXTENDED to His DISCIPLES

Money can pay agents; universities can give learning; bishops may ordain; congregations may elect: but the Holy Ghost alone can make ministers of the Gospel.
 J.C. Ryle

Prayer HAS BEEN Answered – IS Being Answered & WILL Be Answered
 MILLIONS Have Been Harvested – Church is Being Built & GROWING

FINAL Day: Lord send out ANGELS for Eschatological Harvest Judgment
 Before that DAY we Go in HIS NAME to Prepare people to Meet their Judge
 We’re called to PRAY & PARTNER with him who PURCHASED His Church
 Looking to Jesus the CHIEF HARVESTER / LORD of Harvest

NERVOUS Moment in Melbourne, AUSTRALIA

Pastors in Trouble w/ Gov’t saying: “Islam is EVIL and CRUEL Religion!”

\Found GUILTY for VIOLATING Anti-Discrimination LAW

Another Pastor asked OPINION: Do U think Islam is Evil & Cruel RELIGION?

WISE Answer – ALL Religion is EVIL and CRUEL!

RELIGION – As MOST Understand It – People DOING Something for GOD

HOPE by DOING SOMETHING they will be ACCEPTED by GOD

EVIL Denies OBVIOUS Weakness & FAILURE of All before HOLY GOD

EVIL DENIAL of Obvious Truth – Nobody, No Matter Religion, Good Enough
 FALSE HOPE – Man cannot build LADDER High Enough to Reach Heaven
 Such a Religion Heartlessly CRUEL: Sends People on IMPOSSIBLE Quest
 Never Pray Enough, Give Enough, Serve Enough to EARN God’s Favor
 DOUBLY Cruel – NO NEED to Try SAVE OURSELVES – God DONE it!

Good News – No Need to TRY & FIND God, Please God

GOD in Jesus Christ: COME to FIND Us!

Died – To Pay our Sin’s Penalty / Rose Again to give us New, Eternal Life

God’s Judgment DAY Question – NOT your Religion or DENOMINATION!
 NOT EVEN whether you have BEEN GOOD! – Not God’s Main Concern
 ALREADY KNOWS True Answer – NONE of US is GOOD Enough!

Question – What have you DONE with MY SON – King Jesus, Miracle Worker
 Jesus Christ DONE what ONLY GOD can DO – SAVED all who Trust in Him

Matthew 9.¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.”¹⁹ And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples.²⁰ And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment,²¹ for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.”²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.²³ And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,²⁴ he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him.²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.²⁶ And the report of this went through all that district.²⁷ And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.”²⁸ When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.”²⁹ Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.”³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, “See that no one knows about it.”³¹ But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.³² As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him.³³ And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.”³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.”³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”