

## Matthew 9:35 – 10:22

### Structure of Matthew 8:1 – 9:38

Text	Subject	Beneficiary/Audience	Issue
8:1 – 4	Miracle 1	Jewish	Uncleanness, leprosy
8:5 – 13	Miracle 2	Gentile	Illness, suffering
8:14 – 17	Miracle 3	Jewish	Fever, demons
8:18 – 22	Teaching 1	Crowd	Jesus requires everything from us
8:23 – 27	Miracle 4	Jewish	Stormy sea
8:28 – 34	Miracle 5	Gentile	Demons
9:1 – 8	Miracle 6	Jewish	Paralysis
9:9 – 17	Teaching 2	Disciples, Pharisees	Jesus has come for sinners
9:18 – 26	Miracles 7 & 8	Jewish	Uncleanness, death
9:27 – 31	Miracle 9	Jewish	Blindness
9:32 – 34	Miracle 10	Jewish	Mute, demons
9:35 – 38	Teaching 3	Disciples	More workers for the harvest!

<sup>9:35</sup> Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. <sup>36</sup> Seeing the people, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.’ <sup>10:1</sup> Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. <sup>2</sup> Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. <sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: ‘Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; <sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give. <sup>9</sup> Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, <sup>10</sup> or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support. <sup>11</sup> And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave that city. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the house, give it your greeting. <sup>13</sup> If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace. <sup>14</sup> Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. <sup>15</sup> Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city. <sup>16</sup> Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup> But beware of men, for they will hand you over to the courts and scourge you in their synagogues; <sup>18</sup> and you will even be brought before governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. <sup>20</sup> For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. <sup>21</sup> Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. <sup>22</sup> You will be hated by all because of my name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

## Questions

1. What's the relationship between the healings in 8:1 – 9:35 and the sending of 9:36 – 10:22?
  - a. Why might Jesus think the disciples are ready for their mission?
  - b. How much of this is new for the disciples? What has Jesus role modeled for them before? What do we learn about discipleship here?
2. Then he tells the disciples to pray for more evangelism to happen. What is the answer to the disciples' prayer in 9:37 – 38?
  - a. In a sense, they are the answer to their own prayer. Do we expect to be God's answer to our own prayers for 'more workers' or 'more evangelism'?
  - b. But in a deeper sense, they are only a small part of God's answer to their prayers.
    - i. God has been preparing people for a long time. First, He gave Israel the Scriptures. Second, the Son of God came personally as Jesus of Nazareth. Third, Jesus healed people and got a movement started. Fourth, Jesus reached a point where there were more crowds than he could deal with personally. So he has prepared his disciples to do the healing and teaching. The Jews have heard a bunch of things. They are prepared in many ways.
    - ii. And in this passage, the disciples are part of calling more workers to the harvest! The people who receive the message of Jesus, especially the households they stay with, are being trained to reach out to others.
3. What is 'the kingdom of heaven'?
  - a. It's an announcement. 'Gospel' is 'euangelion' in Greek, or literally 'good news'. It is a word that is totally overused by Christians, and sadly we even forget what it means. It is the announcement of a new king. It was used by the Roman Empire to announce the birth of a new Emperor, or the succession of a new Emperor. That announcement of 'good news' would ripple outward across the Roman Empire. Jesus was announcing a counter-gospel to Rome!
    - i. Is that the same as saying, 'Jesus died for your sins – just receive him'? Why or why not? It's not the same. A kingdom implies a king and a kingdom community that acknowledges him as king. The 'Jesus died for your sins' doesn't imply community – just a bunch of individuals who feel good because they have after life insurance. Kingdom also means that the king has authority to call subjects to obey him.
  - b. It's a renewal of Israel. There are twelve apostles, v.1 – 6. Why twelve? And why men? They represent the twelve tribes of Israel. Jesus is renewing Israel to be the kingdom community God always wanted. The kingdom of heaven is not an abstraction. It has historical roots. It makes sense that after Jesus speaks ten words, like the Ten Commandments, he forms a renewed Israel and calls others to join it.
  - c. It's a mission and an invitation. In this case, why would Jesus send them only to Israel? This is a unique and temporary mission. Later, we are commanded more broadly about other peoples. But it also makes sense to us in that we have to learn how to witness to people close to us and risk their rejection. It teaches us a lot. Jesus is not biased against Gentiles and Samaritans.
  - d. It's an experience of sharing in Jesus' power. The disciples now understand the power of Jesus' word, and are sharing in his power. This is the first time that power was delegated to them. They see that Jesus healed a bunch of people, to announce the deeper healing of character and spiritual life. Now, Jesus gives them a share in that power to heal other people and announce the same thing.
  - e. Do we live this kingdom we're proclaiming?
4. Does Jesus seem to have a strategy for his disciples' outreach?
  - a. Travel light: for the disciples at this time, the journey was limited to Israel and they didn't need to be very prepared for going beyond that
  - b. Disciple an entire household: some people have been prepared and will be hospitable; be stable and presumably you can disciple those people
  - c. Expect some success and some rejection
    - i. Why would these cities be judged more severely than Sodom and Gomorrah? Because they rejected Jesus. Sodom and Gomorrah did not do that. But see 1 Peter 3:19 and 4:6, because it's important to know that God did not consign the people of Sodom and Gomorrah to hell, but kept them somewhere to wait for Jesus to come to them.

- ii. Individuals and cities: These communities in Israel were small, more like towns. Towns would be hospitable or not as a community. That's why the disciples were supposed to shake the dust off their feet of the *city*, and why the *city* itself would be judged.
    - d. Be vulnerable. Sheep in the midst of wolves – what does that mean? How does that make you feel? What does it mean to be shrewd as serpents? Serpents hide under rocks when they sense danger. Likewise, Jesus' disciples can flee (v.23) – they are not just supposed to go to their deaths, although at times that would happen. What does it mean to be innocent as doves? Probably that they are to be not hiding anything or deceitful, especially when they testify before people (which is what Jesus talks about immediately afterwards in v.17-20).
      - i. Have any of you had an experience where you had the chance to share about Jesus and felt like God gave you the words?
- 5. The theme of rejection is intense.
  - a. How many of you have family or friends who really disapprove of your being a Christian? What is that like? (if there are intense things, just end by praying for one another, that Jesus would sustain people)
  - b. APPLICATION: Don't be afraid. Do we think we can do evangelism without being rejected? If Jesus was batting only .200, can we do better? Granted, we want to do evangelism well and thoughtfully, but perhaps we don't do it as often because we want to be more successful.
- 6. APPLICATION: Pray for the people you see 'seeking' spiritually. Because as they start talking about the questions they're asking with other people, other people will start responding and reacting. There is always a chain reaction as God moves.
- 7. APPLICATION: What if you were to work a 'proxe station' sometime soon to engage people in spiritual conversation?