

Study Notes and Questions for Matthew Chapter Nine

- How did the men carrying the paralytic demonstrate their faith?
- Why did the “teachers of the law” believe Jesus was blaspheming in 9:2?
- Note: Based on Isaiah 43:25; 44:22; Psalm 51:4 we can see they were correct.
- How did Jesus prove that He wasn’t blaspheming?
- Jesus asked a question in 9:5. What was the answer to His question?
- Why do you think the people reacted as they did as described in 9:8?
- Matthew became one of the twelve disciples closest to Jesus. What does Jesus’ choice of Matthew reveal about the heart of the Lord?
- What did Jesus mean when He said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”?
- In verse 13 Jesus said, “Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’” (Note: use the context of the passage to form your answer.)
- How did Jesus reply to the question John’s disciples asked Him about fasting and what did He mean by this reply?
- What insights did Jesus give us about the times when we are most likely to fast?
- For Thought and Discussion: Why do you think fasting has become so rare in today’s church culture? What does fasting accomplish? What is your own attitude toward fasting?
- Two healings are described in 9:18–26, the first requiring more immediate attention than the second. Yet Jesus paused on His way to the first in order to help the second. What does this teach you about His priorities and timing?
- How did the crowd react to the healing of a demon-possessed man (9:32–34) and why?
- For Thought and Discussion: Ezekiel 34 contrasts the “shepherds of Israel” with another “shepherd” (“my servant David”) whom God would set over the nation. Do you think Matthew had this passage in mind when he wrote Matthew 9:36?
- Why is it important for us to pray for God to send more people into the harvest fields?