

# JESUS HEALS SEVERAL PEOPLE: MEETING MAN'S DESPERATE AND HOPELESS NEEDS MATHEW 09: 18–34

## *Introduction*

This passage includes four examples of people who had desperate, hopeless needs. They demonstrate two things: Christ is beyond question the Messiah, “the Son of David” (v. 27); and Christ has the power to meet our desperate, hopeless needs, even the need of conquering death.

- I. The helpless cry for life (Part 1) (vv. 18-19).
- II. The secret hope for health (vv. 20-22).
- III. The helpless cry for life (Part 2) (vv. 23-26).
- IV. The unceasing cry for sight (vv. 27-31).
- V. The quiet approach for sanity and speech (vv. 32-33).
- VI. The reaction to Jesus' power (vv. 33-34).

## MATHEW 09: 18–34 FAITH

The thing that God wants from men is the very same thing a parent wants from a child — faith and trust, love and dependence. God wants a man to believe and trust Him, to love and depend upon Him. This is clearly seen throughout this passage.

1. God responds to true faith. God does whatever good a person asks if that person really believes in Him and His power. And amazingly, the request can be *on behalf of another person*. God will touch the life of another person because we pray in faith (see Mt. 8:5-13).
  - a. The daughter was raised from the dead because of the father's faith (Mt. 9:18, 25).
  - b. The haemorrhaging woman was healed and saved because of her own faith (Mt. 9:21-22).
  - c. The two blind men received their sight because of their own persistent faith (Mt. 9:29-30).
  - d. The mute man possessed by an evil spirit was delivered and received his sanity because of the faith of others (Mt. 9:32-33).
2. Our faith is only as strong as *the object of our faith*. The power of faith does not rest in a person's own faith but in God and in God alone (Mk. 6:30). Christ can do anything no matter what it is, but the question is, will He? It always depends upon two things.

- a. Is the request good? Is it good for all, both for the people involved and for the world? And is it good for God Himself and His glory? Only God can know if a request is good; that is, does it embrace good for all persons involved. This is what is meant by asking according to His will. But note this: a great deal of what is good (His will) is already revealed to us in His Word. We can ask according to His Word and He will answer — if we truly believe.
- b. Is the request really asked in faith? Do we really believe that God can and will do the good that we ask?

*Heb 11:6* And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. □

### **I. *Mathew 09:18–19 Seeking Jesus in Hopelessness***

There was the hopeless cry for life (Part 1). The man who cried for help was a ruler and a father. Luke says that the ruler's name, who oversaw the administration of the synagogue at Capernaum was Jairus. The synagogue ruler was an elected position among the religious leaders. The person was highly respected, both capable and popular, a person who wielded great power. He determined who was to teach in the synagogue worship and supervised the whole operation. He was one of the most important men in a community.

Jairus' daughter was only twelve years old. Jairus was a man of strong love, a man who loved his daughter ever so deeply; and he was a man of strong courage. He showed remarkable courage in approaching Jesus, for he went against the tide of the other religionists who were violent in their thoughts against Jesus. The other religionists were bound to react against Jairus. Only the sense of desperation would stir him to approach Jesus, and then he would approach Jesus only as a last resort. It was the desperate need of his daughter that drove him to Jesus.

1. Note four things about the man and his desperation,
  - a. His hopelessness: he was so hopeless he interrupted Jesus while Jesus was preaching and teaching. His little daughter was dead, gone forever. He loved his daughter, and he apparently loved her more deeply than most. He stood up against the world, that is, against the censoring and hostility of his peers. He was an elected official by the religious elders; therefore, he was probably risking his position by coming to Christ. Only an unusual love and belief would have driven him to approach Jesus in the face of so much opposition (see Mt. 9:34).

*Isa 66:2* “Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the LORD. “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.”

**Luke 9:24-26** *“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”*

**Thought 1.** One thing should always receive priority over all else — the cry of a hopeless and helpless person. When the hopeless and helpless approach us, we should immediately stop and go to them, doing what we can. Prayer, study, preaching — all are to take a back seat to helping those who have need. Note: the need Jesus met was immediate and urgent. There was not even time to say a word. Jesus was silent. He simply responded by arising and going as requested.

- b. His attitude: he worshipped Jesus; he fell down at the Lord's feet. Remember this was a distinguished man, an elected official who oversaw the administrative responsibilities of the most important institution in a Jewish city — the synagogue. He was a dynamic example of how leaders should approach Christ: in humility, worship and faith.

**Mat 18:4** *“Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*

**James 4:6** *But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

**Thought 1.** We will never know the mercy of Christ until we humble ourselves and become as little children (Mt. 18:3).

**Thought 2.** Too often, the desperate needs of loved ones drive us into a state of helplessness and hopelessness, of depression and self-pity. The need may be severe illness, terrible trouble or death. However, despair is not the answer to desperate needs. The answer is to lift up our heads to Jesus for the salvation of our loved ones. We are to come before Christ, asking Him to help us. He never turns away.

- c. His request: he asked Jesus to come and touch his daughter.

**Psa 91:15** *He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.*

**Isa 58:9** *Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk.”*

**Jer 33:3** *‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’*

**Thought 1.** We must ask Jesus for *His touch* — to touch us, to touch our need — and He will.

- d. His faith: "She will live." This man was a man of great faith. He believed that if Jesus would just come, his daughter would live. He believed Christ could raise her from the dead.

**Thought 1.** Note two lessons.

- (1) This is the very same faith, a great faith, that we must have.
  - (a) We must believe that Jesus can meet our desperate needs.
  - (b) We must believe that Jesus can raise us up from the dead (Jn. 6:39-40, 44, 54; 1 Cor 15:12-58; 1 Th. 4:13-18).
- (2) This man was driven to Jesus by a tragic event. God uses tragedy to drive us to Jesus. Every man should approach Jesus in tragedy, but he should approach in a spirit of worship and belief — truly believing and trusting that Jesus will help.

**Mat 21:22** *"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."*

**John 14:14** *"You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."*

**Psa 91:15** *He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.*

2. Note Jesus' response to the father's desperation. Jesus arose and acted by following the man, by going to his house where the need was. There was no hesitation whatsoever.

**Jer 33:3** *'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'*

**Thought 1.** Note three lessons.

- (1) The ruler was so desperate that he interrupted Jesus while Jesus was preaching and teaching. Jesus did not stop him nor rebuke him. He said nothing. He simply *responded to the man's* desperate and hopeless cry. Jesus always receives and responds to a man...
  - who is desperate
  - who confesses his hopelessness and helplessness
  - who acknowledges his need and believes that Jesus can help
- (2) Jesus never turns from a desperate man who comes to Him. In fact, He does not even hesitate to help the man. He will not even take the time to speak. He will arise and follow the desperate man to meet his need. Jesus is ever ready to help. He longs to help.
- (3) Note that Jesus will visit us wherever our need is. In this event, Jesus left his meeting and the opportunity to preach and teach in order to meet the desperate need. What a lesson for us! How much we need to learn what the priorities really are!

## II. *Mathew 09:20–22 The Secret Hope for Health*

There was the secret hope for health by a woman. She had been haemorrhaging for twelve years (see *Rejected by Men and Religion*, Mt. 9:20). She was desperately hopeless, feeling ashamed, embarrassed and unworthy. According to the law she was not to be in the crowd surrounding Jesus at all. She was supposed to be isolated, but her desperation drove her to Jesus. She felt that Jesus would never touch her because she was unclean, but she had heard so many wonderful things about Him: if she could only touch His garment, He would never know, and she would be healed. Imagine her great faith! Jesus' response was fourfold.

1. *Jesus turned* to the woman. There was no way Jesus could have felt the touch to His robe. He was being pressed and thronged by the crowd, yet when she stepped up behind Him and touched His robe, He knew. How?
  - a. Her faith touched Him. It is faith that touches Jesus. Faith will never go unnoticed nor be ignored by Jesus.

*Mark 1:15* “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

*Mark 9:23* “‘If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.”

*Psa 31:19* How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.

*Psa 37:5* Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:

- b. Power and life went out from Jesus into her. When a person places his faith in Jesus and His power, it touches Jesus, and Jesus infuses His power and life into that person. That is what life and salvation are all about: the infusion of God's power and life into the spirit of man.

*Mark 5:30* At once, Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

*1 Pet 1:23* For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

*2 Pet 1:4* Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (see John 17:2-3)

**Thought 1.** Jesus stopped and turned to the woman. To Jesus the most important work in all the world is meeting a person's need. The more desperate the need, the more Jesus wants to stop and face the need. Nothing will keep Jesus from stopping and turning to a person who comes to Him in desperation.

*Mat 8:17* This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” (see Isa 53:4)

2. *Jesus saw* the woman. He saw her desperation, her confession of hopelessness, her need, her faith; and His heart went out to her from the depths of compassion.

**Thought 1.** The Lord cares for all, no matter how rejected, cut off or ostracized. A person may be considered unclean, dirty, polluted, contaminated, lost forever; but that person is precious to our Lord. His heart goes out in tenderness and care to the greatest of sinners.

**Heb 4:15-16** *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

3. *Jesus adopted* the woman. He called her “daughter” and adopted her into the family of God. He spoke to her on behalf of the Father and gave her the assurance that she was accepted by God. The fact that God would help her was conveyed to her immediately. Note also that Jesus said, “take heart.” She experienced the consolation and assurance of God immediately.

Note: When a person really comes to God in desperation, God immediately gives a knowledge of adoption and comfort. He gives such a release from pressure and desperation that the person's spirit sighs and revels in the new found peace.

**John 1:12** *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

**2 Cor 6:18** *“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty.*

**Gal 4:4-6** *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”*

4. *Jesus made* her whole. His power and life was infused into her, and she was saved and made whole. She had feared facing Jesus because she feared being rebuked. She was wrong. Jesus longed to heal the desperate among the people. No person is too dirty for Him. In fact, the more unclean a person is, the more He wants to cleanse and make him whole. Imagine such a Saviour!

**Mat 9:12-13** *On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

**Mat 20:28** *“Just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**Luke 19:10** *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”*

### MATHEW 09:20 REJECTED BY MAN AND RELIGION

The woman afflicted with an uncontrollable haemorrhage was considered unclean. No one could touch her or anything she touched. She was ostracized and cut off from society and excommunicated from religious observances. If she were married, she was to be divorced (see Lev. 15:25-27). The fact of this woman's uncleanness had sunk deeply into her mind, for she had been cut off from society and family — left all alone for twelve years. She had gone to every doctor she knew or had ever heard about, and not one was able to help her (Mt. 5:26). She was now poor, for she had spent all she had seeking to find a cure. She had daily experienced the pit of loneliness, unacceptance, and low self-esteem. She was nothing even in her own eyes. Therefore, in approaching Jesus she felt both embarrassment and unworthiness. Her haemorrhaging was a personal and intimate matter that was too embarrassing to be discussed before people, and she felt Jesus would never touch her because of her uncleanness. She was too unclean. However, she had exactly what it takes to get help from God: a desperation and a belief that Jesus Christ could help. We can picture her wondering, "What am I to do? He will not greet me; I am unclean." But all of a sudden, she knew: "If I only touch His cloak, I will be healed." And she was. Her faith made her whole (See notes, *Faith*, Mk. 11:22-23; Jn. 2:24; Rom 10:16-17; Heb 10:38). Symbolically, her disease is a clear picture of what sin does. It cuts a person off from God and from true fellowship with believers (Isa 59:2). The only means of restoration is to come to Jesus even as she did.

In contrast to what men do when they are confronted with the unclean, Jesus responds; He does not ostracize. Jesus calls; He does not divorce. Jesus adopts; He does not excommunicate. □

### III. *Mathew 09:23–26 Jesus Christ, Power*

There was the hopeless cry for life (Part 2). Again, this desperate cry was by the ruler and father on behalf of his daughter. There are several significant facts to note.

1. The trying delay (vv. 20-22). Why did Jesus allow the woman to delay Him? No need is greater than the need arising from death. Jesus knew that the ruler's desperation was bound to grow more uneasy by allowing the woman to delay Him. But He also knew that the ruler's confidence and assurance would be strengthened by seeing Him meet the woman's need. Perhaps the man needed to be strengthened. Whatever the reason for allowing the delay, Jesus knew.

**Thought 1.** Jesus always knows what is best for us and when to meet our need. We should not become fearful, questioning and unbelieving when our needs are not immediately met. Jesus is going to meet the need of anyone who approaches Him in humility and faith.

2. The atmosphere in the ruler's house. The atmosphere was noisy, the grief loud.

**Thought 1.** Note two lessons.

- (1) Loud noise and grief do not create the proper atmosphere for Jesus to work and meet our needs. We should rid ourselves of such distraction — get quiet, meditate, pray and trust the Lord to do His work.
- (2) The world suffers loud noise and grief because it has no hope over death. But the Lord longs to meet the grief of the believer's heart with the quiet assurance and hope He has given. Assurance is the promise given to the believer who truly hopes in the Lord (Tit. 2:13).

3. The strong demand. Jesus demanded a quiet, prayerful atmosphere. He said, "Go away," depart, go, be gone with the noise and loud grief. There is no room for this behaviour in the face of faith.

**Thought 1.** We are seldom conscious of Jesus' attempting to comfort us in the midst of noise and loud mourning.

4. The daughter's death. She was dead, and Luke says unmistakably that the people *laughed at Jesus* "knowing that she was dead" (Lk. 8:53). Mark says that certain ones even came to meet the ruler and said, "your daughter is dead" (Mk. 5:35). Men dread and fear death, so they soften its thought by calling it *sleep* (see note, 1 Th. 4:13).
5. The mourners' reaction. They scorned Jesus. They knew what death was. They were around death all the time, especially the paid mourners. It was the practice of the wealthy to pay professional mourners to grieve over the death of their loved ones. There was no question she was dead and not asleep. There is also the possibility that they scorned Jesus to discourage the ruler from allowing Jesus to help. They knew somewhat of Him and His power because Capernaum was His home, the centre of His ministry. If He raised his daughter, they would lose their work and payment.

**Thought 1.** Most men scoff at the idea of Jesus' raising the dead (see 1 Cor 15:12f; 15:35f; 2 Pet 3:3f. These passages will show clearly the questions that cause men to scoff.)

- (1) Men often mock and scorn what they do not understand.
- (2) We must believe and trust and confess with Paul, "Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!" (Rom 11:33).

**Thought 2.** The people were put out. Scorners are not worthy to witness the Lord's power. Only the meek and receptive are.

6. The power of His hand. The description of our Lord's power is both beautiful and assuring.
  - a. He went in, "entered the ruler's house." He will always *come in* to us wherever we are, if our hearts will only reach out to Him as the ruler's heart did. We may be disabled, but He will come to help us.
  - b. He "took the girl by the hand:" He reached to infuse His power and life into her. He will infuse His power and life into us if we will only call upon Him.
  - c. He raised her up: "she got up." Jesus will raise us up, meeting our desperate needs on this earth, and He will also raise us up in the last day. (See Jn. 5:22-30.)

**Mat 28:18** *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*

**Acts 10:38** *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*

**Rom 1:4** *And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Thought 1.** Jesus' power can and will touch any need.

- (1) He can touch the most desperate needs of all — the needs arising from the death of loved ones.
  - (2) He can touch the desperate needs of people through our intercession. Our loved ones may be helpless even as this young daughter was, but if we will pray, Jesus will use His sovereign power to touch their need.
7. The result of His power. Jesus' fame was spread abroad. The raising of the dead was proof that Jesus was the Messiah (see *Faith*, Mt. 9:18-34; see Mt. 10:9; *Prophecy Fulfilled*, Mt. 11:5; note, Jn. 11:37f). The people talked and talked about His power, but note how many still did not believe. They still refused to commit their lives to Him. How precious are those of succeeding generations who have not seen, yet believe.

**John 20:29** *Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

#### **IV. Mathew 09: 27–31 Persistence in Seeking Jesus**

There was the unceasing cry for sight. This cry came from two blind men who were apparently sitting beside the road begging. In Jesus' day, most blind men were beggars. These two blind men overheard what had been happening. A chord was struck in their heart, so they began to follow after Jesus, crying out as fast as they could shout, "Have mercy on us, Son of David."

1. Note that they took the very steps necessary to have their needs met.
  - a. They cried for mercy. These men did what we must do if we wish God to have mercy upon us.
- => The blind men “believed the message” about the Messiah (Rom 10:16). They could only hear the message; they could not see what was happening.
- => They personally cried out for mercy, accepting and confessing that Jesus was the Messiah.

***Psa 34:6*** *This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.*

***Psa 34:18*** *The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

***Psa 38:9*** *All my longings lie open before you, O Lord; my sighing is not hidden from you.*

***Thought 1.*** God is rich in mercy (Eph 2:4-5). He will have mercy on any who genuinely cry to Him for mercy.

- b. They acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. This is seen in the title they used for Jesus, “Son of David” (see *Jesus Christ, Son of David*, Mt. 9:27; Lk. 3:24-31).

***Thought 1.*** The men were blind. They could not see what Jesus was doing. They could only hear.

(1) The lost are blind. They cannot see; they cannot understand.

(2) The lost can only hear.

***Rom 10:17*** *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

Hearing the gospel is the only hope for the lost. It is imperative that we go and proclaim the Word to them.

- c. They fought their way to him. They persisted and went after what they wanted (see notes, Mt. 7:7-11). Note that Jesus did not stop immediately. He knew their hearts just as He knows everyone's heart. He knew they needed to grow in desperation. They needed to be so desperate that they would just cast themselves upon Him totally. They had apparently not reached that point. So, He, who is all-wise, walked on as though He did not hear them. And all the while, they clawed their way through the crushing crowd, shouting at the top of their voices, becoming more and more desperate and more and more ready to take the great leap of saving faith.

***Thought 1.*** Note three lessons.

- (1) The men persisted and kept after Jesus. They followed Him right up to His house and somehow gained entrance. The point is, they would not give up until He helped them.

- (2) Persistence, a true cry for help, is not rudeness to Jesus. How many have been interrupted in their homes and counted it rudeness? How we need to learn that the first order of the day is to minister!
- (3) The two men helped each other. They began together and fought together to get to Jesus. What a lesson for us when we confront need! Believers with common needs can help each other reach Jesus.

**Mat 7:8** *“For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”*

**Deu 4:29** *But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all our heart and with all our soul.*

**Jer 29:13** *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

2. Jesus' response was compassionate and forceful. There was an unmistakable readiness to help. This is seen in three acts.
  - a. Jesus questioned the two blind men: “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” Jesus stands ready to help — always. There is never a time when He is not ready to help, but there is a prerequisite to His helping. There is one qualification: “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

**Thought 1.** Many balk at the question of faith: “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

- (1) Some do not believe at all.
- (2) Some doubt that Jesus has the power or interest to help.
- (3) Some ignore and could care less.
- (4) Some follow after Jesus and even ask for mercy, but they never *commit their lives* in faith to Christ. They believe mentally, but they never believe with their lives, that is, commit their lives to what Jesus claims — that He is the Messiah, the Son of God.

**Thought 2.** Some call Jesus *Lord*, but they lack the one essential: doing what they profess. They have never turned over their lives to the One they say they trust. A person has not trusted Christ unless he has entrusted his life into Jesus' keeping (see notes, Mt. 7:21-23).

**Heb 11:6** *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

**Psa 37:5** *Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:*

**Prov 3:5** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*

**Isa 26:4** *Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal.*

- b. Jesus touched the two men. Note the tender touch of Jesus. These men could see nothing; they had a special need so Jesus met their need in a special way.

**Thought 1.** Jesus always meets every facet of our need. He touches all who sincerely come to Him in whatever way they need to be touched. This fact should make every man come to Him. There is no need, no special problem existing that He cannot meet.

**Isa 65:24** *Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.*

**Jer 33:3** *'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'*

- c. Jesus exerted His power: He healed them, but it was based on their faith.

**Thought 1.** Note four lessons.

(1) Their *faith in Christ and His power* wrought their healing.

=> It did not take works, but faith.

=> It did not take health, but faith.

=> It did not take money, but faith.

=> It did not take friends, but faith.

=> It did not take social acceptance or position, but faith.

(2) Jesus knows our faith and He knows how to grow our faith. Note how He grew the faith of these men. Whatever we need to develop a strong faith, whether trial or test or immediate blessing, God will bring that experience into our lives (Rom 8:28f; Phil 1:29; I Pet 4:12-13).

(3) What a blessed thought! Jesus receives our faith, accepts it, and does what we believe.

(4) This is a warning: no man is dealt with according to his profession. He is dealt with according to his faith: "And without faith, it is impossible to please God..." (Heb 11:6).

**Mat 21:22** *"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."*

**Heb 11:6** *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

3. *Jesus' instruction* to these men was a charge that is often needed. It is especially needed by believers who experience the miraculous touch of Jesus' power. The charge was, "see that no one knows about this"; "be humble." Christ wanted these men to set a dynamic example in humility. Therefore, Jesus charged them to keep quiet. He knew the inner recesses of their hearts and minds just as He knows all men. Apparently, they had a heart that would tend toward boasting in their miracle and in the change wrought in their lives.

**Thought 1.** Note two lessons.

- 1) There was danger in being so blessed by Jesus. Pride and self-importance could easily set in. They could think of themselves more highly than they ought to think.

(2) There is a fine line between honouring Jesus and honouring oneself in a testimony. The heart makes the difference and only God knows the heart. *But He does know.* How often we boast and glory in such phrases as...

- what a change has been wrought in my life.
- but for the grace of God there go I.
- what a terrible sinner I was.

**Rom 12:3** *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

**Phil 2:3-4** *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

## V. **Mathew 09: 32–33 Seeking Jesus for Sanity and Speech**

There is the quiet approach for sanity and speech. Note how quietly this event is placed in the midst of the other miracles, but the lessons are pointed.

1. There was the man.
  - a. He was brought by others. (See note, Mt. 9:2.)
  - b. He needed help desperately: he was demon-possessed, possessed by an evil spirit.

**Luke 11:09-10** *“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”*

**Psa 31:19** *How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.*

**Psa 34:22** *The LORD redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.*

**Thought 1.** Note four lessons.

- (1) Many have to be brought if they are ever to come. They are too weak in spirit, mind or body to come on their own. They will not come unless they are brought.
- (2) We must go after the needy in order to bring them. Many would come...
  - if we would simply visit and go after them
  - if we would make friends and nurture them along the way
- (3) Some are possessed by the wrong spirit, not by God's Spirit. Spiritually, they are dumb in their knowledge of Christ. They have no awareness, no consciousness, no understanding whatsoever of the delivering power that is in Christ. The fact that there is a Saviour is totally foreign to them.

(4) Some are gripped by the deepest form of evil, demon possession. They desperately need to be brought to Christ (see notes, Mt. 8:28-34. See Lk. 8:26-40.)

2. There was Jesus' response. He healed the man.

***Eph 1:19-20** And his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.*

***Eph 3:20** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*

**Thought 1.** Note how much power Jesus has.

- (1) He can touch the life of a person because of the faith of another. Intercessory prayer and faith are God's way for many to be reached.
- (2) He can break the greatest of bondages — even the grip and power of Satan when Satan totally possesses the life of a person.

**Thought 2.** The enormous power of Christ should...

- stir us to bring our needs to Christ all the time.
- stir us to bring others to Christ all the time, even if they are gripped by the severest forces of darkness.

## **VI. Mathew 09:33-34 Reaction Against Jesus Christ**

There was the reaction to Jesus' power. The people were amazed. They witnessed what they called the wonderful work of God, wonder after wonder. But note: not all believed. Despite the amazing work of God, only a few truly trusted Him

The religionists hated Christ. They were hostile toward Him, vehemently so (see *Religionists Opposed Jesus*, Mk 3:22). They were guilty of the unpardonable sin (see note, Mt. 12:31-32).

***Jer 17:09** The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ■*