

## **Matthew 9:27 – 10:16 – Healing and Commissioning to do the same!**

***Mat 9:27-28 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into 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."***

As Jesus departed from the ruler's neighborhood, two blind men followed Him, pleading for sight. Though dispossessed of natural vision, these men had acute spiritual discernment. In addressing Jesus as Son of David, they recognized Him as the long-awaited Messiah and rightful King of Israel. And they knew that when the Messiah came, one of His credentials would be that He would give sight to the blind (Isa\_61:1, RSV margin). When Jesus tested their faith by asking if they believed He was able to do this (give them sight), they unhesitatingly responded, "Yes, Lord." – Believers' Bible Commentary

***Mat 9:29-30 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."***

Then the Great Physician touched their eyes and assured them that because they believed, they would see. Immediately their eyes became completely normal.

Man says, "Seeing is believing." God says, "Believing is seeing." Jesus said to Martha, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see?" (Joh\_11:40). The writer to the Hebrews noted, "By faith we understand ..." (Heb\_11:3). The Apostle John wrote, "I have written to you who believe ... that you may know ..." (1Jn\_5:13). God is not pleased with the kind of faith that demands a prior miracle. He wants us to believe Him simply because He is God.

Why did Jesus sternly warn the healed men to tell no one? In the notes on Mat\_8:4, we suggested that probably He did not want to foment a premature movement to enthrone Him as King. The people were as yet unrepentant; He could not reign over them until they were born again. Also, a revolutionary uprising in favor of Jesus would bring terrible reprisals from the Roman government on the Jews. Besides all this, the Lord Jesus had to go to the cross before He could reign as King; anything that blocked His pathway to Calvary was at variance with the predetermined plan of God. – Believers' Bible Commentary

This is another remarkable case where the Lord charges these men not to tell anyone about what happened to them. He said the same thing to the leper. There are several reasons for the Lord to ask this favor, but one is made clear in this passage. The publication of His miracles caused the crowds to press in upon Him and actually hindered Him at His work. - McGee

***Mat 9:31 But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.***

In their delirious gratitude for eyesight, the two men spread the news of their miraculous cure. While we might be tempted to sympathize, and even to admire their exuberant testimony, the hard fact is that they were crassly disobedient and inevitably did more harm than good, probably by stirring up shallow curiosity rather than Spirit-inspired interest. Not even gratitude is a valid excuse for disobedience. – Believers' Bible Commentary

### ***Jesus Heals a Man Unable to Speak***

***Mat 9:32 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.***

First Jesus gave life to the dead; then sight to the blind; now speech to the dumb. There seems to be a spiritual sequence in the miracles here—life first, then understanding, and then testimony.

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An evil spirit had stricken this man with dumbness. Someone was concerned enough to bring the demoniac to Jesus. God bless the noble band of the anonymous who have been His instruments in bringing others to Jesus! – Believers' Bible Commentary

**Do you bring the people hurting to Jesus, so they can be healed?**

***Mat 9:33 And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"***

As soon as the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. Surely we may assume that he used his restored power of speech in worship and witness for the One who had so graciously healed him. The common people acknowledged that Israel was witnessing unprecedented miracles. – Believers' Bible Commentary

Spiritual dumbness is occasioned by demoniacal possession. When Christ cast the devil out the dumb spake.

1. Some complain that their intellectual culture is not sufficient to enable them to speak to edification. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings God hath ordained praise. The demon of intellectual pride must be cast out.
2. Some say, "I have very little ability, others can do so much better." God does not want ability so much as availability. The demon of selfishness must be cast out.
3. Others say, "I can't and I won't use my tongue in the Church's service, I have not been used to it." The demon of wilfulness must be east out. – Biblical Illustrator

***Mat 9:34 But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."***

But the Pharisees answered by saying that Jesus cast out demons by the ruler of demons. This is what Jesus later labeled the unpardonable sin (Mat\_12:32). To attribute the miracles which He performed by the Holy Spirit to the power of Satan was blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. While others were being blessed by the healing touch of Christ, the Pharisees remained spiritually dead, blind, and dumb. – Believers' Bible Commentary

***The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Laborers Few***

***Mat 9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.***

"The gospel of the kingdom" is not the gospel of the grace of God. This does not mean to imply that there are two gospels. There is only one gospel, but there are many facets of it. The gospel of the Kingdom was the announcement that the Kingdom of the heavens was at hand. It meant to get ready for the King. It required a heart condition that would accept and follow the King who was then going to the cross.

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“And healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” We see again and again that Matthew inserts this information that there were thousands of folk who were healed in that day. This is the reason the enemy never questioned the fact that He performed miracles—it was too obvious.

Again let me say that in our day a great many people get excited about the claim of certain ones to have a gift of healing. Personally, I do not think that anyone in our day has that gift. As I mentioned previously, for many years I have offered one hundred dollars to anyone who would come forward and be able to prove that he had been healed by a so-called faith healer. You would think that out of literally hundreds of reported faith healings during the time of a sensational healing meeting, there would be one case that is genuine. I'll be honest with you—I did expect someone to come along that had had a psychological cure. No one has come.

I asked the leader of a certain denomination who has offered one thousand dollars to anyone who could prove he had been cured by a faith healer what his experience had been. He told me about several lawsuits that had been filed against him by those who had tried to collect the money. No one, however, had ever been able to go into court and prove that he had been healed by a faith healer.

In contrast to this, there were thousands of folk who had been healed by our Lord when He was here. And I would think that there would be at least one today, wouldn't you think so? Let me ask you the question: Do you really know someone who has been healed by a man or woman? The point is that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Great Physician, and I believe—I know—that He can heal today as well as yesterday. I have great confidence in Him. Now let me make myself clear: We should seek the best medical help available to us, but we need to recognize that doctors are very limited. However, the Lord Jesus is not limited. We can be confident that He will deal with us according to His perfect will, and we need to give Him the credit for whatever happens. – McGee

***Mat 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.***

The note of compassion which concludes this chapter is startling, isn't it?

God's ideal kings and rulers have been shepherds. Both Moses and David were shepherds before they led God's people. When we pray for the Lord to thrust forth laborers into His harvest, pray that He will give them the heart of a shepherd. Pray that the Lord will give you a heart of compassion for the lost. - McGee

**When we look to put in a political leader, do we evaluate his experience in compassionately shepherding people?**

***Mat 9:37-38 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."***

Having said this to His disciples, He now sends them forth. My friend, when you pray for something, it is always well to be willing to do it yourself. When our Lord asked the disciples to pray for laborers, He sent into the harvest these very men whom He asked to pray about it. This is very interesting indeed. An old

## Matthew 9:27 – 10:16 – Healing and Commissioning to do the same!

bishop in the Methodist church in Georgia years ago said, “When a man prays for a corn crop, the Lord expects him to say ‘Amen’ with a hoe.” I have always believed that you should not pray about anything unless you are also willing to do it yourself. – McGee

### CHAPTER 10

THEME: Jesus commissions the twelve apostles to go to the nation Israel and preach the gospel of the Kingdom.

This chapter continues the movement we have seen in the Gospel of Matthew. The Lord Jesus, having given the ethic, came down from the mountain, demonstrated His power in the twelve miracles which have been enumerated. Now He commissions the twelve apostles to go to the nation Israel and preach the gospel of the Kingdom.

These men are to go, not as forerunners but as after-runners. Our Lord gave them power to perform miracles—this was their credential. (Have you ever noticed that John the Baptist never performed a miracle?) Note that their title is changed from disciple (learner) to apostle (delegate).

As we enter this chapter, keep in mind the number of cults which come to this chapter for their authority for some peculiar ministry or conduct. You see, the instructions for the Christian are not found in this chapter. We need to consider the instruction here in light of the circumstances and conditions under which they were given, and we should be able to interpret them accurately. – McGee

***Mat 10:1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.***

The power He gave to them was their credential as they went to the nation Israel. The prophets of the Old Testament had said that this would be the credentials of the Messiah. Having given them this power, they are no longer disciples but apostles. - McGee

***Mat 10:2-4 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.***

The twelve apostles were:

1. Simon, who is called Peter. Impetuous, generous-hearted, affectionate man that he was, he was a born leader.
2. Andrew, his brother. He was introduced to Jesus by John the Baptist (Joh\_1:36, Joh\_1:40), then brought his brother Peter to Him. He made it his business thereafter to bring men to Jesus.
3. James, the son of Zebedee, who was later killed by Herod (Act\_12:2)—the first of the twelve to die as a martyr.
4. John, his brother. Also a son of Zebedee, he was the disciple whom Jesus loved. We are indebted to him for the Fourth Gospel, three Epistles, and Revelation.
5. Philip. A citizen of Bethsaida, he brought Nathanael to Jesus. He is not to be confused with Philip the Evangelist, in the book of Acts.

## Matthew 9:27 – 10:16 – Healing and Commissioning to do the same!

6. Bartholomew. Believed to be the same as Nathanael, the Israelite in whom Jesus found no guile (Joh\_1:47).
7. Thomas, also called Didymus, meaning “twin.” Commonly known as “Doubting Thomas,” his doubts gave way to a magnificent confession of Christ (Joh\_20:28).
8. Matthew. The former tax-collector who wrote this Gospel.
9. James, the son of Alphaeus. Little else is definitely known about him.
10. Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus. He is also known as Judas the son of James (Luk\_6:16). His only recorded utterance is found in Joh\_14:22.
11. Simon, the Canaanite, whom Luke calls the Zealot (Luk\_6:15).
12. Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of our Lord.

The disciples were probably in their twenties at this time. Taken from varied walks of life and probably young men of average ability, their true greatness lay in their association with Jesus. – Believers Bible Commentary

### ***Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles***

***Mat 10:5-6 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.***

Now if you are going to take your instructions from this chapter for your personal ministry, you will have to limit yourself to the nation Israel, because this is to be given to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Obviously, these verses do not contain our commission. Contrast it with our commission in Act\_1:8 : “... and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Notice that we are to include Samaria and the uttermost part of the earth, while Jesus instructed the twelve in this chapter to stay out of Samaria and not to go into the way of the Gentiles but only to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

And the message of the twelve was to be this: - McGee

***Mat 10:7-8 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.***

The message was the proclamation that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. If Israel refused, there would be no excuse because an official announcement was to be made exclusively to them. The kingdom had drawn near in the Person of the King. Israel must decide whether to accept or reject Him.

10:8 The disciples were given credentials to confirm their message. They were to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. The Jews demanded signs (1Co\_1:22) so God graciously condescended to give them signs.

As to remuneration, the Lord's representatives were to make no charge for their services. They had received their blessings without cost and were to dispense them on the same basis. - McGee

## Matthew 9:27 – 10:16 – Healing and Commissioning to do the same!

***Mat 10:9-10 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.***

They would not be required to make advance provision for the journey. After all, they were Israelites preaching to Israelites, and it was a recognized principle among the Jews that the laborer deserves his food. So it would not be necessary for them to take gold, silver, copper, food bag, two tunics, sandals, or staffs. Probably the meaning is extra sandals or an extra staff; if they already had a staff, they were permitted to take it (Mar\_6:8). The idea is that their needs would be supplied on a day by day basis. - McGee

***Mat 10:11 "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.***

What arrangements were they to make for housing? When they entered a city, they were to look for a worthy host—one who would receive them as disciples of the Lord and who would be open to their message. Once they found such a host, they were to stay with him as long as they were in the city, rather than moving if they found more favorable living conditions. – McGee

***Mat 10:12-14 And when you go into a household, greet it. If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.***

If a household received them, the disciples were to greet the family, showing courtesy and gratitude in accepting such hospitality. If, on the other hand, a house refused to host the Lord's messengers, they were not obligated to pray for God's peace on it, that is, they would not pronounce a benediction on the family. Not only so, they were to dramatize God's displeasure by shaking the dust off their feet. In rejecting Christ's disciples, a family was rejecting Him. - McGee

***Mat 10:15 Assuredly, 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!***

He warned that such rejection would bring severer punishment in the day of judgment than the perversion of Sodom and Gomorrah. This proves that there will be degrees of punishment in hell; otherwise how could it be more tolerable for some than for others? – McGee

The sin of the Sodomites was single, but that of those rejecting the apostles would be manifold, including

- (1) infidelity;
- (2) disobedience;
- (3) ingratitude;
- (4) inhospitality;

(5) rebellion and contumacy against God, contrary to the law of nature, and in defiance of the grace of God. (*Lapide.*)