

Matthew: Title

Discussion Guide for Passage on Month Date & Date, 2025

Summary

In this sermon, we explore four instances of healing in Matthew 9:18-34, focusing on how different people saw Jesus. The passage includes Jairus (a synagogue ruler) seeking healing for his dead daughter, a woman with a bleeding disorder touching Jesus' garment, two blind men calling Jesus 'Son of David,' and a demon-possessed mute man being healed. Through these stories, we see contrasting perspectives: some recognized Jesus' power and authority as the Messiah, while others (like the Pharisees) saw him as demonic despite witnessing the same miracles.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss how different people saw Jesus in these healing stories, open our spiritual eyes to see You clearly. Remove any blindness that prevents us from recognizing Your power and love in our lives. Help us to trust You even when we don't understand Your ways. May our discussion today deepen our faith and draw us closer to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever had a strong disagreement with someone about what you both saw in the same picture, movie, or situation? What was that experience like?

Key Verses

Matthew 9:22

Matthew 9:28-29

Matthew 9:33-34

Isaiah 35:5-6

Revelation 22:3-4

Questions

1. In the story, Jairus kneels before Jesus despite being a powerful synagogue ruler. What areas of your life do you find most difficult to submit to God's authority and why?
2. The woman with the bleeding disorder believed even touching Jesus' garment would heal her. How would you describe your level of faith in Jesus' power to work in your life right now?
3. Jesus stopped to give the bleeding woman a platform to share her story despite being on an urgent mission. How does this shape your understanding of how God views your personal struggles?
4. The professional mourners laughed at Jesus when he said the girl was only sleeping. When have you found yourself doubting or questioning God's ability to work in seemingly impossible situations?
5. The blind men recognized Jesus as the 'Son of David' (Messiah) despite their physical blindness. What helps you to 'see' Jesus clearly in your spiritual life?
6. The crowds and Pharisees witnessed the same miracles but had completely different reactions. Why do you think people can look at the same evidence about Jesus and come to different conclusions?
7. The sermon mentions that non-believers have 'spiritual blindness.' How should this understanding shape how we share our faith with others?
8. The pastor asks, 'How do you see Jesus?' Reflect on whether you see Him as someone to run to only in need, a controlling authority, or a loving Father. How has your view of Jesus evolved over time?

Life Application

This week, identify an area of your life where you may be experiencing spiritual blindness - perhaps a situation where you're not trusting God's power, doubting His care for you, or trying to maintain control rather than submitting to Him. Each day, spend time in prayer specifically asking God to open your spiritual eyes in this area. Then, take one concrete step toward trusting Him more fully, whether that means releasing control, reaching out to Him in your pain, or acting in faith despite uncertainty. Journal about how your perspective changes as you intentionally practice seeing Jesus more clearly.

Key Takeaways

1. Followers of Jesus should have 'hem-like faith' - such confidence in Jesus' power that we believe even a passing touch from Him can deliver us from our deepest struggles.
2. God sees our pain and cares deeply about our suffering, taking time to address our needs even when it seems He has more important things to do.

3. Followers of Jesus trust God even when we don't understand what He's doing or His timing doesn't make sense to us.
4. Spiritual blindness prevents people from seeing Jesus for who He truly is, while spiritual sight allows us to recognize Him as the Messiah and King.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for opening our spiritual eyes to see You as You truly are - the powerful, compassionate Messiah who cares deeply about our pain. Forgive us for the times we've doubted Your power or questioned Your care. Help us to have 'hem-like faith' that reaches out to You in our struggles, trusting that even a touch from You can bring healing to our deepest wounds. Give us patience when we don't understand Your ways, and help us to submit to Your authority, knowing Your plans are greater than our own. May we live with the joyful anticipation of one day seeing You face to face. In Your mighty name we pray, amen.