

Matthew 9:13-34

Jesus ends mourning. Do you believe that? With all the realities we face in life: sadness, grief, loss, hurt, sin, death... do you believe that Jesus brings an end to all of those things? That's the claim Jesus makes during his life: that he turns mourning into something new.

"14 Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" 15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. 16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. 17 Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

18 While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." 19 And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. 20 And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, 21 for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. 23 And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, 24 he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. 26 And the report of this went through all that district.

27 And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." 28 When he entered 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." 29 Then he touched their eyes saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." 30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, "See that no one knows about it." 31 But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

32 As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. 33 And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." 34 But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." - Matthew 9:14-34

Jesus pursues his people to end their pain. This snippet of his life shows his love and commitment to his people and to restore us to himself as a pure bride.

Study Questions

- Jesus was asked about fasting in verse 14. Jesus had commended fasting in Matthew 6. Have you ever fasted before, and for what reason?
- Jesus says his disciples did not need (at least at the time) to fast while he was with them. He speaks to being a bridegroom. What do you think of with engagement and wedding celebrations?
- Jesus got intimately involved with real difficult issues in this story. How has he been intimately involved in the difficult things in your life?
- What convicted you from this passage? What brought you hope?

D&A (Discipleship & Accountability)

Break up into smaller groups for prayer.

- How is your time with God?
- What are you praying for?
- What are you struggling with?
- Who are you praying for this week that doesn't have relationship with Jesus yet?
- What Gospel conversations have you had this week?