

Matthew 9 – 6 October 2019

“Reacting To God’s Offer Of Grace”

Introduction

Jesus has now been preaching, teaching & healing throughout Galilee in the north.

Thru the many situations in Chapter 9, I think you’ll find it interesting to consider the many different responses the people gave to Jesus.

He offered to help, to heal, to laugh, to love...but He didn’t always get a open-hearted reply for everyone.

Even we, sometime don’t get the response from people that we expect to receive.

Today we’ll see 5 reactions to Jesus as He interacts with people and their deepest needs.

Vs 1-8 – First reaction to God’s workings, **some don’t believe God unless they see physical activity.**

1. Read Vs 1
 - a. Back to Capernaum on west of the Sea
2. Read Vs 2
 - a. This is the story in which they lowered their friend thru the roof. (Mar 2:3)
 - b. Jesus set aside His own needs to serve the needs of others.
 - c. Jesus’ forgiveness is activated b/c of their faith. Oh to have friends of like common faith.
3. Read Vs 3
 - a. They also say, “Who can forgive sins but God.”
 - i. They didn’t believe that Jesus was God.
 - ii. Is it true that God is the only to forgive sin?
 1. Read Psm 51:4
 2. Read Gen 39:9
 - b. This would be blasphemy if He’s not God.

4. Read Vs 4-6
 - a. Vs 4 – Why is your first thought that I must be doing evil or wrong?
 - i. What reason did they have to think He was against God?
 - b. The word power = authority not dunamis
 - i. He has the rightful place to forgive sins.
 - ii. More significant than just having the power
 - c. This physical act proves the spiritual reality
 - i. The spiritual reality is what matters.
 - ii. The physical action will always prove it.
5. Read Vs 7-8
 - a. Now why would God give His forgiving power to men?
 - b. B/c Jesus is the Godman!
 - c. All of these works pointed people back to God. That's the goal.
6. Some people don't believe unless they see a physical action right in front of them.

Vs 9-13 – Second reaction to God’s workings, **some don’t want it to be available to all people.**

1. Read Vs 9-10

- a. Matthew changed his life & followed Jesus.
 - i. Jesus calls you away from a life of sinful habits & into a life of believing a new thing.
 - ii. The way some try following Jesus is to bring all their sinful lifestyles with them.
 - 1. If you’ve been a thief, quit stealing.
 - 2. If you’ve been a liar, quit lying.
 - iii. Matthew wasn’t dragging his tax booth behind him!
- b. B/c one, in the group of publicans, followed Jesus, that many more came to Jesus.
 - i. Just as it takes one in a family to come to Christ to influence the whole family.
 - ii. It just takes one of a certain group to influence the whole group.

2. Read vs 11-13
 - a. Spiritual vs the physical
 - i. This is a quote from Hos 6:6, but said more so in I Sam 15:22 (Read I Sam 15:22)
 - ii. Spiritual act or the physical act is worthless.
 - b. They're mad He's w/ publicans & bad guys
 - i. Turn to Matt 11:16-19
 - ii. They would find a way to complain about His approach.

Vs 14-17 – What is Jesus really here for?

1. Read Vs 14-15
 - a. 1st reference to the heavenly wedding
 - i. Children of the bridegroom is Israel.
 - ii. Bride is the church (Read Rom 7:4)
 - iii. John the Baptist is the best man (Jhn 3:29)
 - iv. Jesus is here to take a bride!
 - b. There's a time to fast/mourn, this ain't it!!
2. Read Vs 16-17
 - a. Explain the two analogies

- b. Jesus is here to complete the Law, but He's here to do something new!
 - i. Remember Romans – completion of the Law means freedom to live for another.
 - ii. We live by a new standard, that of grace.
 - iii. Read John 1:17

Vs 18-26 – Third reaction to God's workings, **some limit God's power in their life.**

- 1. Read Vs 18-19
 - a. What faith! They knew to come to Jesus.
 - b. Did they need Jesus to go to the girl? No
- 2. Read Vs 20-21
 - a. Some people need a point of faith to activate their faith.
 - b. Gideon put out a fleece.
- 3. Read Vs 22
 - a. All of us have imperfect faith.
 - b. It just needs to be put in the right thing!

4. Read Vs 23-24
 - a. The mourners limited Jesus power over death.
 - b. Are you limiting Jesus power?
 - i. Can He heal relationships that are broke?
 - ii. Can He save the “unsavable”?
 - iii. Can He heal the “incurable”?
5. Read Vs 25-26
 - a. The unbelievers are always on the outside looking in.

Vs 27-31 – Fourth reaction to God’s workings, **some act in faith even before receiving anything.**

1. Read Vs 27-31
 - a. Contradiction?
 - i. Luke 18:35 – A certain blind man
 - ii. Mark 10:46 – Blind man named Bartimaeus
 - iii. Matt 9:27 – Two blind men
 - iv. They all go together, just different details

- b. Vs 27 – “Thou Son of David”
 - i. Reference to the Messiah
 - ii. He believed before he received
- c. Vs 28 – The blind man went to Jesus
- d. Mark 10:48 – crowd was telling him to be quiet, and he yelled all the more.
- e. Mark 10:50 – He came casting away his garment. He wouldn’t need beggars’ clothes ever again.

Vs 32-34 – Fifth reaction to God’s workings, **some won’t believe God regardless.**

- 1. Read Vs 32-34
 - a. This goes back to Matt 9:4 – why do you automatically think I’m doing wrong?
 - b. Some people won’t believe God regardless.
 - i. Usually b/c they’re protecting something.
 - 1. Something that starts with P (pride)

Conclusion –

We've seen five ways that people react to Jesus, some people...

1. Don't believe God unless they see Him physically act
2. Don't want God's offer to be available to all people
3. Limit God's power in their life
4. Act in faith even before receiving anything
5. Won't believe God regardless

The final verses tell us Jesus heart toward the people.

Knowing that the people would react in these five ways, He still has great compassion on them.

Read Vs 35-38

Now read them again from our perspective of doing and acting the same way!