Informal Bible Study Discussion Guide for the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 9

Section by section

Overview

Chapter 8 and chapter 9 go together. Matthew chose to dedicate these two chapters to featuring certain **miracles** that our Lord performed. Keep in mind that the purpose of Matthew's gospel is to present **Jesus Christ as the promised King and Messiah to the nation of Israel**. Matthew presents overwhelming proof, and the miracles of chapters 8 and 9 are a big part of that proof.

Understanding this makes what happens at the end of chapter 9 concerning the religious leaders of Israel all the more shocking. Look for that when we get there.

Section by Section Questions

Verses 1 to 8

1. This same event is described in Mark 2:1-12 and Luke 5:17-26. Let's read these passages now and note any additional details that Mark or Luke give us.

2. What is the first thing that Jesus says to the paralytic? Do you think that is what the paralytic wanted to hear? What does this tell us about how our human priorities are not the same as the Lord's priority?

3.	What did Jesus see that resulted in Him telling the paralytic that his sins were forgiven? What is striking about this?	
4.	What would the Jews of this time believe was the basis for the forgiveness of their sins? For help on this, you can consult the following Old Testament passages:	
•	Leviticus 4:1-6:7. Especially verses 4:20, 26, 31, 35; 5:10,13,16,18; 6:7. Leviticus 16:29-34 Numbers 15:22-28 Deuteronomy 21:1-9	
The writer of the book of Hebrews sums up the Law's teaching on the subject of the forgiveness of		
Не	Heb 9:22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.	
	lowing this principle of the Law, what conclusion would a Jew draw about who Jesus is once he alized that Jesus was forgiving sins?	

How about a disciple of John the Baptist in particular? See John 1:19-34 for the testimony of John concerning this.	
5. Did the paralytic or his friends ask to have sins forgiven? Did they bring an offering ? Did he confess his sins before they were forgiven? Was he baptized for the forgiveness of sins? What does this mean?	
6. Jesus f orgave the paralytic's sins first , and <u>then</u> He healed the man's <u>body</u> . What does the order in which Jesus went about things teach us about our human condition and needs?	
7. In verse 3, some scribes (and Luke tells us Pharisees also) accused Jesus of blaspheming. Why? See Luke 5:21.	
The scribes and Pharisees have a very important ministry. Every time Jesus says something really important, they either try to kill him or accuse Jesus of blasphemy. Therefore, when you read about these guys cursing Jesus or trying to kill him, look back and see what Jesus just said. It was life-changing!	

8.	Jesus asks the scribes and Pharisees a question (but He does not give them the opportunity to answer it). What is the question?
Wł	nat do you think their answer would have been if they had been given the opportunity to answer?
Но	w do you think Jesus would have answered the same question?
9.	Read Luke 5:17. It sets the scene for this event. Who was there? What are we told about the makeup of this group?
Wł	nat was provided to Jesus (His humanity) in the presence of this crowd?
Wh	nat did Jesus set out to accomplish with what was provided to Him on this occasion?
son	nt: He is going to set up the scribes and Pharisees, and in fact everyone present, to realize nething extraordinary about Him by using something else that would have impressed the people being extraordinary.

10. Other men, in the Old Testament, had been given the power to perform miracles. Moses and Elijah for example. But had any man before this day been given the authority on earth to forgive sins? We will need to discuss the situation of the Levitical priests and of John the Baptist in this regard.	
11. What instruction does Jesus give to the paralytic in verses 5 and 6 after He told him his sins are forgiven and after He healed him?	
What instructions does the Lord give us after we are completely forgiven, justified, and made new creatures in Christ? For help on this one, see Ephesians 2:8-10, Ephesians 4:1-4, Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 6:3-4.	
Verses 9 to 13	
 This same event is described in Mark 2:13-17 and Luke 5:27-32. Let's read these passages now and note any additional details that Mark or Luke give us. 	
What detail does Mark add concerning the tax collectors and sinners in Mark 2:15?	

2. In Matthew 9:11, the Pharisees have a complaint against Jesus . What is it?
Who do they complain to?
What does this <u>reveal</u> about the scribes and the Pharisees?
Who answers their complaint?
3. Read the answer Jesus gave them in all three gospels:
Matthew 9:12-13, Mark 2:17, and Luke 5:31-32
What detail does Matthew insert concerning the answer Jesus gave that Mark and Luke leave out. What is the significance of this?
This is a declaration made by the LORD through Hosea in Hosea 6:6 . What is the book of Hosea about? Let's take a look at the big picture of what Hosea is about. [#Bible sheet on Hosea] Which
kingdom was Hosea sent to prophesy to, Judah or Israel?

Note on the map provided where Jesus was when this event occurred. He is at Capernaum, on the Sea of Galilee. Was this location formerly part of the kingdom of Judah or the kingdom of Israel?	
4. Eating with someone was a gesture of intimacy and fellowship in 1 st century Israel. What did the scribes and Pharisees find so objectionable about Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners?	
5. Jesus used a familiar image to illustrate what was going on between Him and the tax collectors and sinners. What was it?	
Jesus had already proven that He was a remarkable physician when it came to the human body. How?	
6. Now He is addressing the ultimate sickness He came to cure. What is that?	
Who are the healthy in this realm?	
Who are the sick ?	

How do the sick (sinners) become healthy (righteous)?	
7.	As Christians, when we think of this ultimate healing, we associate it with receiving eternal life and becoming citizens of heaven. What would a first century Jew have associated ultimate healing with?
In	this scene, who was getting healed, and who wasn't? For help, see Matthew 21:28-32.
8.	What impact do you think all of this had on Matthew?
9.	How does Matthew show that he understood how <u>deadly</u> his spiritual sickness had been?

Verses 14 to 17

In this section, Jesus describes the distinction between the principle of Law which prevailed from Moses until John the Baptist (see Luke 16:16), and the grace and truth which came by Jesus Christ (see John 1:17)

1. This same event is described in Mark 2:18-22 and Luke 5:33-39. Let's read these passages now and note any additional details that Mark or Luke give us.

2. In Matthew's account, who asks Jesus the question about fasting? How about in Mark? In Luke?

3. What is the significance of fasting for the Jews? See Nehemiah 1:4-11; 9:1-4; Psalm 69; Psalm 109:21-30; Daniel 9:1-19; Joel 2:1-17; Isaiah 58:3-12.

Jesus answers this question about fasting in Matthew 8:15-17.	
4.	What detail does Luke add to Jesus' answer, in Luke 5:39?
5.	What is the main point that Jesus is making in this passage? What is His point in using these two illustrations of new cloth and old garments, and new wine and old wineskins? Exodus 24:3-8; See Jeremiah 31:31-40; Ezekiel 11:19, Luke 22:14-20, Hebrews 7:18-22; and Hebrews 8:4-13.
6.	What is the "new wine"? What are the "new wineskins"? And who are the people who say "the old is good enough"? For help, see2 Corinthians 3:1-18; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:14, Romans 11:6, and 1 Timothy 1:5-7; Hebrews 10:11-25, 33-39; Hebrews 12:18-24; .

7.	What does this passage teach us about the dangers of Christian's putting themselves under the Law?
8.	Was the grace of God revealed in the Old Testament? How? How about particularly in connection with the Messianic kingdom? See Isaiah 49:8-16; chapters 54 & 55; Isaiah chapters 61 & 62; Isaiah 65:17-25; Jeremiah chapters 30 & 31; Ezekiel 36:22-38; 37: 11-14; 39:25-29; Hosea 14; Amos 9:11-15; and Zechariah 8. How about the Abrahamic covenant?
9.	What is the significance of Jesus calling Himself the bridegroom to these Jewish officials?

10.	He was conducting His ministry in the region that had once been part of the Northern Kingdom. The prophet Hosea was sent to the Northern Kingdom. How would the bridegroom image be particularly striking in light of the book of Hosea?
11.	Is the bride mentioned in the Old Testament? Who is the bride? For help, see Isaiah 62:1-5; Revelation 21:1-14. See also article provided.
12.	Why would this wedding party be drinking wine? See Joel 3:18-21; Luke 22:14-20.
13.	What does the image of the bridegroom teach us?