

# WELCOME TO SOUTHLAND!

*Thanks for joining us!*

*August 1, 2021*

## **Matthew Week 8**

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### **Church-Wide Prayer Request:**

- Growing in passion for Jesus: the Word, worship & prayer (Romans 12)
- That we would be known for our love for Jesus and others and that our lives marked by simple obedience to His Word, that we would truly become agents of salt and light within our community and region.

Today we are going to cover Matthew 9-11... I want us to focus on two things today.... 1) the HEART of Jesus & 2) the CALL of Jesus

### **A. Jesus' heart – friend of sinners and the sick!**

Jesus takes a different approach... he exerts his power FOR the ones He wishes to rule.... He comes down the mountain and immediately goes to the lost, hurting, broken people of the day...

- **Mt 8:2-4** – cleanses a leper – touches the unclean!
- **Mt 8:5-13** – Heals a centurion's daughter
- **Mt 8:14** – Heals Peter's mother in-law
- **Mt 8:16-17** – cast out demons and healed the sick – MANY
- **Mt 8:23-27** – calms the storm in response to his disciples' cries
- **Mt 8:28-33** – delivers two demon possessed men... so dramatically that the towns people wanted him to leave!
- **Mt 9:1**- heals a paralytic – and does so again in dramatic fashion by declaring, “your sins are forgiven”!!! WOW!!
- **Mt 9:18-26** – Jesus raises a rulers daughter to life! and while on the way to do it – heals a women who was suffering with a discharge of blood for 12 years as she simply touched the fringe of his garment!
- **Mt 9:27-30** – Jesus heals two blind men
- **Mt 9:32-34** – Jesus heals a man that couldn't speak

### **Matthew 9:9-13 (ESV)**

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples.

**NOTE:** Jesus doesn't look for the same qualities that we often look for in a leader. He looks into the heart. Just as he did with David. Jesus calls those whom the world considers undesirables! Sinners! The

least of these! And he invited them to not just join him for eternity – WOW! But also, to follow Him on the earth giving PURPOSE to their lives and bringing REDEMPTION within their lives!

...And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**Practical:** When you look at your life. Do you feel that you are disqualified by sin, character, gifting, ability, social status, financial status, spirituality, schooling, etc.? Do you struggle to see how God could use someone like YOU in fulfilling the Great Commission to reach the lost and the nations?

- Do you identify with the “sick” people that need a physician! \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus says to YOU, to US... “I desire MERCY & not SACRIFICE. I came to call SINNERS – not the righteous.”
- If you feel “unclean” or unworthy... inadequate... then the GOOD NEWS is Jesus came for YOU! **LISTEN:** As we meditate on this truth... Lord... would you speak to each one of us here today...

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## B. Jesus’ CALL – for those who choose to follow

### Matthew 9:36-38 (ESV)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;

But look what he says NEXT! We would think that he would immediately send out his disciples to begin taking care of them! right?? I mean isn’t this what Scripture teaches. It was clear from the OT that taking care of the lost, hurting, widows, orphans, etc. were a HIGH priority to God and we have already seen how Jesus went and ministered to individuals... incredible! But what was his FIRST instruction?

### James 2:15-17 (ESV)

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?<sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**Matthew 9:38...**therefore **pray** earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

#### 1. The FIRST thing Jesus commands them to do is PRAY...

This is FAR more significant than we often realize... we know Jesus calls us to GO... but he has a FIRST step – PRAY!

**Luke 21:36** “But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**Matthew 26:41** “watch and pray that you may not enter temptation...”

**Luke 21:36 (ESV)**

<sup>36</sup> But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Pray for our enemies... pray for the forgiveness of sins... for our needs... for the Kingdom to come.

When the disciples came to Jesus they didn't ask Him “Lord, teach us to preach; teach us to heal; teach us to minister....but teach us how to pray (Luke 11:1) because they saw that Jesus was truly a Man of prayer. He lived it, modeled it and commanded it.

"Yet the invariable fruit of true knowledge of God is energy to pray for God's cause - energy, indeed, which can only find an outlet and a relief of inner tension when channeled into such prayer - and the more knowledge, the more energy!" - J.I. Packer

Prayer is essential for us as we follow Jesus. There is no fruit bearing apart from the life of prayer.

Then in chapter 10 we see him ANSWER the prayer He commanded them to pray!

**Matthew 10:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

What does this tell you about the HEART OF GOD?

**2. The SECOND thing Jesus commands them to is to GO...**

**Matthew 10:5-15 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. <sup>9</sup> Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, <sup>10</sup> no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. <sup>11</sup> And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup> And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup> Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

This is the first time he is telling his disciples to GO and make disciples. But we aren't at the Great Commission yet! The GC was to all disciples, to all the nations! But the process didn't start there... look at the steps we see Jesus modeling...

**REMEMBER:** I do, we do, you do – probably not! It's a parenting model but VERY useful for how we disciple others! we get disciplined first (I do), then we do it with someone else to show them (we do), then once ready, they do it on their own (You do.) BE disciplined to MAKE disciples.

**Watch this process...**

- Jesus gets baptized, filled with the Spirit, then prays and fasts
- Then is led to the wilderness to be tempted and tested
- Then grabs his first disciples
- Then begins LOCAL ministry... doesn't travel far. Stays close to home.
- Sermon on the Mount – teaches and trains!
- Comes down and immediately begins modeling healing and deliverance ministry...
- JESUS is limited to one place and time as he is HUMAN.
- Now he moves to reproduce himself in his followers... and it starts with PRAYER...
- Then he gives them authority (power)
- Then he commands them to GO and do what he was already doing...

The MASTER at work! and he started LOCALLY before going out further – we should start the Great Commission locally too! (unless Jesus specifically calls you to another city or country first.)

**PRACTICAL:** are you WILLING to GO? Both locally and beyond... are you willing to GO? (Take a moment to listen)

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This is NOT easy work we are called to! But Jesus stands ready to EMPOWER us with His Spirit, give us the WORDS to speak, EQUIP us... and best of all? WALK WITH US EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

**Matthew 10:16-28 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves... <sup>19</sup> When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. <sup>20</sup> For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

God’s MASTER PLAN in setting up a NEW KINGDOM and gaining followers? SEND AN ARMY FOR CONQUEST! NO! He sends SHEEP into the midst of WOLVES...

**Jesus rewards those who answer the call!**

**Matthew 10:41-42 (ESV)**

<sup>41</sup> The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. <sup>42</sup> And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

**3. The THIRD thing Jesus does is PROMISE to provide rest and comfort...**

**Matthew 11:25-30 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden

these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

<sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

To those that choose to FOLLOW Jesus... he calls them to PRAY – pray for themselves, pray for the harvest, pray for His kingdom to come! Then calls them to GO – go to their friends, family, neighbors and beyond... the nations! And then promises, that He will give rest and that (although it may seem like a HEAVY command) his yoke is easy and burden is light!

### **Week 8: Passage of the Week: Matthew 9-11**

#### **MAP Challenge Jesus’ call to those who follow him:**

**M** - memorize – Matthew 5:10. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

**A** – application – application & prayer step below

**P** – pray – prayer & application step below

1. Pray – pray for the desire to give him everything. Pray for him to raise up laborer’s for the harvest. Pray for our church to be passionate for the Great Commission and for reaching the lost.
2. GO – are you willing? If so, prayerfully commit yourself to him. This week: commit to praying the lost and those struggling within your sphere. Ask: for opportunities and then look for ways to be a blessing to them. “give a cup of cold water.”
  - a. If the opportunity presents itself: seek to pray for them, listen to their story, and share your Jesus story with them (if they want to hear it).
3. REST – do you feel rest in your relationship with Jesus? If so, great! Keep going to him! If not, ask him what is blocking you from experiencing his rest and peace. Commit: share this with a friend or mentor, who will pray for and with you.

If you need prayer, please contact us now! [Prayer@mysouthland.com](mailto:Prayer@mysouthland.com)

If you are struggling and need help, please contact us now! [Care@mysouthland.com](mailto:Care@mysouthland.com)