

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 11 ~ Exploring Chapter 8:1- 9:34

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 8:1- 9:34
- Read Matthew chapter 8 and 9 two times and then answer the following questions in your Matthew notebook.
 - Matthew 8:2-15 tells us about three of Jesus' miracles. List the common factors in all three miracles, then list those common in any two.
 - Using a Bible dictionary see what you can discover about the social status within Jewish culture of the three recipients of Jesus' ministry.
 - What do you think Matthew is trying to teach us in these verses?
- Thoughtfully read Matthew 8:23-9:8
 - Matthew 8:23 to 9:8 contains a second trio of miracles. Each pictures Jesus exercising authority over something. List that "something" in each case.
 - What has the second trio of miracles added to the first in terms of our understanding of Jesus' authority?
 - Can others see that Jesus is the authority in your life? If so, how? If not, what can you do to change this?
- Thoughtfully read Matthew 9:9-13. Using the comparative references found in your Bible, read also the accounts in Mark and Luke. (If your Bible does not have comparative references use a Bible concordance to look up "Matthew" and "Levi" – Matthew's other name.)
 - Using all three accounts, make a composite list of what we know about Matthew from the Gospels. Then compare your finding with the discussion of Matthew in a Bible dictionary.
 - Write a brief paragraph describing Matthew based on everything you now know about him.
 - Discuss in a paragraph or two, what we can learn about 9:13 in its context from a study of the text's Old Testament marginal reference in their contexts (Hosea 6:6).
- Thoughtfully read Matthew 9:18-33. This is the third trio of miracles found in this section of Matthew's Gospel. After reading this trio of miracles, spend some time contemplating the role faith plays in these miracles. Then discuss the role faith plays in each of them in a paragraph or two in your notebook.
 - Now compare 9:33 with 7:28,29. List the similarities.
 - In the context of Matthew's developing theme, what do those similarities mean for his story?
 - What is the real point of contention in 9:34?
 - What do you think the real function of 9:34 is in Matthew's developing story?

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).