

THE KING OF KINGS: A STUDY OF MATTHEW

The King's Kingdom: A Study of Matthew 8–13

STUDY SIX

A Nonstop Day of Miracles

Matthew 9:14–34

How good of God to provide us a guideline for life that never needs to be called into question! His Word is written for our correction and admonition so that we through patience and comfort from the Scriptures would find hope, the one element that is so missing all around us—the hope that He gives.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

WE all know the meaning of a busy day—the kind where the chaos of random challenges and surprising demands meets us every hour. It feels as though we're being asked to achieve the impossible. In this *Searching the Scriptures* study, Matthew records for us a unique glimpse into one of those days in the life of Jesus.

Typically, the gospel writers noted singular events that occurred on single days. But Matthew 9:14–34 portrays Jesus being pulled one way and then another and then another in this day of impossible demands . . . impossible for us, at least. It must have been an exhausting day for Jesus; however, sacrificing for others is why He came. He came to serve and not be served, to busy Himself not for personal gain but for meeting the needs of others. When Jesus performed the impossible, He did so from His heart of love with grace and mercy toward hurting people like us.

Let's walk with Jesus through His busy day and learn the value of trusting in the only One who is worthy of our devotion.



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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

A Nonstop Day of Miracles

Matthew 9:14–34



PREPARE YOUR HEART

Take a moment to reflect on Jesus' purposes for performing miracles. Consider what they teach us about His character and His presence with us in this life. Then think over how they relate to His promises about the life of the world to come. After a bit of reflection, write your request below for the Holy Spirit to guide Your study of His holy Word.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Jesus didn't wake up that morning with His daily planner filled with ten to-do items. The page was blank. He likely got up, prayed, and ate breakfast. Then he casually strolled outside only to find a full agenda of others' needs awaiting Him. *What an agenda it would turn out to be!*



Observation: Winding Through the Streets of Capernaum

Matthew parachutes us into Jesus' day when John the Baptizer's disciples rush up to Jesus to ask Him about fasting. We'll save the short, imagery-laden response of Jesus in Matthew 9:14–17 for interpretation. During His response, however, a synagogue leader ran up to Him with an urgent request.

Dive into the action by reading [Matthew 9:18–34](#). Observing the text means paying careful attention to the details.¹ Note each person's assumption about Jesus and the miracle Jesus performed for them.



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Person(s)	Assumption	Miracle of the Pharisees
9:18–19, 23–26		
9:20–22		
9:27–31		
9:32–33	N/A	

Did you catch how the demonized man “was brought to Jesus” (Matthew 9:32), whereas the others came to Jesus? Even though the demon-possessed man’s assumption about Jesus wasn’t explicitly stated, that he “was brought” to Jesus likely clues us into to his thoughts about Jesus. What do you think his assumptions about Jesus and himself might have been?

Just look at that power! Don’t ever, ever, ever doubt God’s power. In His time and in His way and for His purpose, He demonstrates it, and He does so rarely when we expect it . . . and usually in ways we would have never imagined. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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Multiple times (Matthew 9:24, 26, 30–31, 34) Matthew noted the response to Jesus' healing ability. We always want to pay attention to repetition because biblical authors use this literary device for emphasis. Summarize and contrast the responses below.

To one person and to the next—one need to another—miraculous power flowed from Jesus at every angle that day. What a king, right? The rulers of this world use their power for coin and prestige, pleasure and ease. But the Creator of the universe wore a peasant's robe and bestowed His power for the restoration of His creation.

Never forget that such signs confirm further the biblical promises of an imminent new world at the end of all things—the re-creation of heaven and earth and the final release from sin's curse.



Interpretation: A Growing Reputation

During interpretation, we explore the historical meaning of a biblical passage to determine its significance for us today. We use other resources from other men and women of God to aid us in this endeavor.²

The Comparison Issue

Carefully read [Matthew 9:14–17](#). So many images! Using your extra-biblical sources, like Pastor Chuck's *Insights on Matthew* commentary (pages 172–174), summarize the key idea of Jesus' reply to the question from John's disciples. How is Jesus' response relevant today?



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Meeting Impossible Needs

Knowing the Jewish cultural context reveals quite a bit about the character of the suffering woman and Jesus' redemptive power (*Matthew 9:20–22*).

What did the Jewish ceremonial law say about her condition? Why would she want to touch only the fringe of Jesus' robe? Jesus told this ailing woman (9:22), along with the blind men (9:29), that their faith had made them well. In these two verses, what is Matthew teaching us about faith and the object of our faith?

Almost without exception, when there is a divine healing, truly a healing, it is instant. Be careful what you call miracles. . . . Don't throw the word around lightly or frequently.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

The Negative Reactions

The father of the dead daughter had to steer clear of the skeptics who “laughed at” Jesus (Matthew 9:24) so that fear wouldn't replace his faith. The Pharisees, however, fought to ensure faith wouldn't replace their fury. How did they respond to Jesus' healings (9:34), and why is their response ironic? What does their response teach us about our depravity and our need for God's intervention?



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In his commentary, Pastor Chuck offers an insightful reflection on the character of Jesus, as portrayed throughout this busy day of healing:

Note that Jesus isn't merely in the business of imparting physical healings; He is also interested in relating to people personally, ministering to them emotionally, and restoring them spiritually. He is concerned with their *whole being*.³



Correlation: God's Power and Our Faith

Let's explore a few verses from Paul's letter to the church at Rome that also deal with God's power, our desperate situation, and the gift of faith. Read and reflect upon *Romans 1:16–20*. Summarize below what this passage claims about these three topics and how it doctrinally complements what we saw in action in Matthew 9:14–34.

I'm not asking you today simply to be impressed with a man who lived and died and whose name is now known among multiple millions around the world . . . as though He were merely a fine man, a martyr for a cause, a good teacher—silly answers. They're shallow. Great moral teachers would never say what He said. Jesus was either crazy . . . or divine.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: The Appropriate Response

Pastor Chuck likes to say application is the final setting of the diamond of truth. Bible study without application is like mastering the contents of a menu at a nice restaurant without actually eating the food. Assimilating the truth of the Word of God fosters a life in close communion with the God of the Word.

The leader of the synagogue, in grief over his daughter, had to learn a few lessons concerning his walk with God. For humility to displace skepticism, one must often reach the point of desperation. For truth to eclipse our panic and impatience, we must learn to respect the times of delays. Do either of those truths meet you in your walk with God?



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If so, record below why it does and how it can help you grow on your journey of faith.

True faith translates into action. The hemorrhaging woman went to Jesus with her need. Is there a need in your life that neither you nor anyone else can fix? Go to Jesus. Turn to Him for strength. Make your requests known to God because He is a merciful God who hears you.

Matthew emphasizes how the report of Jesus' activity spread like a wildfire. Often, encountering Jesus spills over into conversations about His goodness in our lives. Do you have someone on your heart who needs to hear of that goodness? If so, write that person's name below, pray for him or her, and then develop a plan to share with him or her the good news of Christ.

Jesus' busy day put divinity on full display for the eyes of the whole world to see. He met them all with the exact act of mercy they needed and wanted. Not only did He do it for them. But He did it for you that you might know with certainty and clarity the kind of God you worship and serve.



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A FINAL PRAYER

Father, what a privilege to even know the name of Jesus, what a privilege to read about His remarkable life, and to participate in the life-giving power of the gospel that has made its way to my ears and into my heart. Embolden me, Lord! Busy me with Your eternal mission rather than my own temporal goals. In Jesus' name, amen.

ENDNOTES

1. For helpful instruction from Pastor Chuck, consult our online instructional web page, "[How to Study the Bible for Yourself](#)." This page provides you an introduction to four important methods in Bible study—observation, interpretation, correlation, and application—along with other helpful study tips. There, you'll also find a link to purchase a copy of Pastor Chuck's book, *Searching the Scriptures: Find the Nourishment Your Soul Needs*, on which our studies are based.
2. Other tools we recommend are a whole-Bible commentary, such as the two-volume *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament* and *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament*. Numerous versions of the Bible are available at [BibleGateway.com](#) along with a wonderful commentary on *Matthew* in the IVP New Testament series. Find an excellent online Bible commentary by Thomas L. Constable is at [netbible.org](#).
3. Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary: Insights on Matthew 1–15*, vol. 1A (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2020), 179.

