

BA Commentary: Matthew 9–12

Matthew 9 – Forgiveness Before Fixing

Jesus doesn't heal the paralyzed man's legs first—He forgives his sins.

“Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” (Matt. 9:2)

He goes after the **real problem**, not the visible one. That's the move of a King, not a crowd-pleaser.

And the religious elite hate it.

This is the first time in Matthew where **Jesus' authority over sin** causes public backlash. The scribes accuse Him of blasphemy. But instead of explaining Himself, Jesus proves Himself—healing the man's body to show He also heals souls.

Then He walks up to **Matthew the tax collector**—a cultural traitor and financial thief—and says, *“Follow Me.”*

And Matthew leaves *everything*.

Application: Jesus doesn't wait for men to clean themselves up. He calls them out of their mess, mid-sin, and into mission.

Matthew 10 – Discipleship Is a Dangerous Calling

Jesus gathers His Twelve and sends them out with power—but no illusions.

There's no health-and-wealth pitch here.

He says:

- *“I'm sending you out as sheep among wolves.”* (10:16)
- *“You will be hated for My name's sake.”* (10:22)
- *“Don't fear those who kill the body...”* (10:28)
- *“Take up your cross and follow Me.”* (10:38)

This is war.

Jesus never sugarcoats the call. Following Him will fracture families, cost reputations, and require endurance. But it also gives eternal purpose and the presence of God Himself.

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” (10:39)

Application: If your walk with Jesus doesn't cost you anything, it's not discipleship—it's fandom.

Matthew 11 – Doubt, Rejection, and Rest

John the Baptist, the man who once declared “*Behold the Lamb of God,*” is now in prison—doubting.

“*Are You the One who is to come, or should we look for another?*” (11:3)

This is a man who prepared the way... now wondering if Jesus is *really* the Way.

And Jesus doesn’t rebuke him. He responds with fulfilled prophecy:

“*The blind receive sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised...*” (11:5)

Faith isn’t always fire—it’s often a flicker that clings to truth when the world goes dark.

Then Jesus denounces entire cities—Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum—**because they saw miracles and didn’t repent.**

Miracles don’t guarantee faith. Repentance does.

Finally, Jesus extends a personal, soul-level invitation:

“*Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*” (11:28)

But don’t miss this—He follows it with:

“*Take My yoke upon you...*”

This isn’t escapism. It’s **alignment**. Rest doesn’t come from doing nothing—it comes from walking *with Jesus*.

Application: Real rest isn’t passive. It’s obedient dependence on the only One strong enough to carry your soul.

Matthew 12 – When Religion Hates the King

By this point, the religious leaders are gunning for Jesus.

They accuse Him of breaking the Sabbath when He allows His disciples to pick grain. Then He heals a man with a withered hand—*on purpose, in public, on the Sabbath*—just to expose their hypocrisy.

“*It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.*” (12:12)

And from there, they start plotting His death.

Later, they accuse Him of casting out demons by Satan’s power. Jesus responds with **pure logic and divine authority**:

“*A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.*” (12:25)

Then He drops heavy truth:

“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” (12:34)

“You will give an account for every careless word.” (12:36)

And finally, when told His biological family is outside, Jesus makes this **eternity-defining statement**:

“Whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.” (12:50)

Obedience > bloodline. Allegiance > tradition.

Application: You don’t belong to Jesus because you *know about* Him. You belong to Him when you *obey* Him.

Theological Themes

- **Jesus has total authority** over sin, sickness, demons, death, nature, and eternity.
- **Discipleship is costly**, not convenient.
- **Faith includes doubt**, but never stays in doubt.
- **Religious hypocrisy blinds**, while surrendered obedience sees.
- **True family is spiritual**, not simply biological.

Masculine Implications

- The call to follow Christ requires surrender—not sanitized, polished, cultural Christianity.
- Real men don’t chase approval—they walk in kingdom authority, even when it costs them.
- Obedience defines identity. Not gifting. Not background. *Obedience*.

Final Application

Ask yourself:

- Where am I resisting the cost of following Jesus?
- Am I asking Him to fix the fruit in my life, when He’s trying to heal the *root*?
- Have I confused proximity to religion with true obedience to the King?

Jesus doesn’t just want your Sundays.

He wants your will.

So, pick up the yoke. Bear the cross.

And walk in the footsteps of the only One with true authority.