

# BA Study Guide: Matthew 9-12

## Overview

Matthew 9–12 shows Jesus *in motion*—healing, calling, teaching, rebuking, and casting out. But underneath the miracles and confrontations, there’s a deeper message: **Jesus has absolute authority**, and to follow Him means surrender, sacrifice, and soul-level obedience.

Jesus doesn’t offer comfort.  
He offers *truth*.  
And truth *cuts*—before it heals.

## Chapter Breakdown

### Matthew 9 – Power Over Sickness and Sin

- Jesus forgives a paralyzed man’s sin *before* healing his body.
- He calls Matthew—a tax collector and societal traitor—to follow Him.
- He’s criticized for eating with sinners but says, “*I desire mercy, not sacrifice.*”

#### Key Truth

Your past doesn’t disqualify you from following Jesus—your refusal to surrender does.

#### Reflection Question

Where are you asking Jesus to fix your circumstances but ignoring what He wants to heal in your heart?

### Matthew 10 – Discipleship Isn't Safe

- Jesus sends out the Twelve with no money, no backup, and no illusions.
- He warns they’ll be hated, persecuted, and rejected—even by family.
- He says, “*Take up your cross.*” Not as a metaphor—as a *mindset*.

#### Key Truth

Following Jesus won’t make your life easier. It will make it *worth it*.

#### Challenge

What’s one area in your life where comfort has replaced obedience?

### Matthew 11 – Doubt, Rest, and Response

- John the Baptist, in prison, starts to question if Jesus is the One.
- Jesus responds by pointing to the fruit—healing, life, and truth.

- He calls out cities who saw miracles but didn't repent.
- He offers rest—but only for the weary who will *come to Him*.

### **Key Truth**

Doubt isn't a sin—but staying in doubt without seeking Jesus *is*.

### **Confession Prompt**

“Jesus, I've seen You move but still held back parts of my life. I repent of my comfort. I want Your rest on Your terms.”

### **Matthew 12 – Authority over Religion and Relationship**

- The Pharisees accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath.
- He heals a man with a withered hand—publicly, purposefully.
- They call Him demonic. Jesus responds with clarity:

“A house divided cannot stand.”

“A tree is known by its fruit.”

“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”

- Then He redefines family—not as biology, but as **obedience**.

### **Key Truth**

You don't belong to Jesus because you know His name—you belong to Him when you *obey* His voice.

### **Check Yourself**

Do your words, actions, and rhythms reveal a heart surrendered to Jesus—or a mouth full of religion?

### **God's Character Revealed**

- **He is merciful to sinners (Matt. 9)**
- **He is honest with His followers (Matt. 10)**
- **He is patient with doubters (Matt. 11)**
- **He is fearless against hypocrisy (Matt. 12)**

God isn't distant. He's *decisive*. He doesn't beg for loyalty—He *commands* it.

### **What This Confronts in Me**

- My desire to follow Jesus without discomfort
- My fear of rejection when standing for truth

- My tendency to perform instead of surrender
- My habit of religious talk without spiritual fruit

## Memory Verse

### Matthew 10:38

“Whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.”

Let that sit. Jesus didn’t say “try your best.” He said, *take up your cross or don’t follow Me at all.*

### Today’s Battle Plan

- **Confess** where you’ve chosen comfort over calling.
- **Repent** of spiritual laziness masked as “waiting on God.”
- **Memorize** Matthew 10:38. Say it. Pray it. Live it.
- **Challenge another man** to read Matthew 9–12 with you and discuss the cost of real discipleship.

## Evangelism Tip

Don’t hide your scars. Share how Jesus met you in your failure and gave you a new start. That’s what people actually relate to—*not your perfect theology, but your personal transformation.*

## Disciple-Making Tip

Ask a brother:

“What’s one thing Jesus is asking you to surrender—but you’ve been ignoring it?”

Then don’t fix him. Just walk with him. That’s real discipleship.

## Final Charge

This isn’t about reading Scripture—it’s about *being read by it.*

Let Jesus confront your comfort. Let Him question your casual faith.

Then follow—without flinching.

He didn’t call you to safety.

He called you to *surrender.*