

BA Devotional: Matthew 9–12

When Jesus shows up in Matthew 9, He doesn't come to manage symptoms—He goes straight for the root.

A paralyzed man is lowered through the roof. Everyone expects a healing.

But Jesus says,

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

It's not that the body didn't matter—it's that the **soul matters more**.

Most of us want Jesus to fix our problems. Jesus came to **rescue your soul**.

And when He forgives the man's sins, the religious leaders accuse Him of blasphemy. Because that's what religion always does when confronted with real authority—it *resists it*.

Jesus Doesn't Call the Clean—He Calls the Called

In that same chapter, Jesus walks up to Matthew, a tax collector—social traitor, financial thief—and says two words:

“Follow Me.”

No resume. No shame spiral. No religious hoops.

Just the raw, unfiltered call of Christ to *get up and go*.

Matthew does. And he throws a dinner party full of misfits and mess-ups.

The Pharisees show up again and say, *“Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?”*

Jesus fires back:

“I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matt. 9:13)

Jesus doesn't recruit the religious elite—He calls the desperate.

And He still does.

You're Not Just Forgiven—You're Sent

In Matthew 10, Jesus turns to the Twelve and says, in essence:

“You've watched Me long enough. Now it's your turn. Go.”

He doesn't give them comfort. He gives them a commission.

“I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves.”

“You'll be hated.”

“Families will divide.”

“Don’t fear those who kill the body—fear the One who holds your soul.”

Jesus is clarifying the fine print of discipleship:

Following Him may cost you everything.

But it’s worth it—because *He is everything*.

Faith Doesn’t Always Feel Like Fireworks

In Matthew 11, John the Baptist is in prison. The same guy who baptized Jesus. The one who shouted, *“Behold, the Lamb of God!”*

Now? He’s wondering: *“Are You really the One?”*

Jesus doesn’t rebuke him. He reminds him:

“The blind see, the lame walk, the dead are raised...”

Faith gets shaky when the story doesn’t go how we planned.

But Jesus doesn’t shame our doubt—He invites our trust.

And then He offers a promise to every man drowning in pressure:

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

But read the next line: “Take My yoke upon you.”

Jesus doesn’t remove responsibility. He **replaces it with purpose**.

Rest isn’t escape. It’s *alignment with the King*.

You Don’t Belong to Him Just Because You Say His Name

In Matthew 12, Jesus goes to war with religious hypocrisy.

The Pharisees accuse Him of breaking the Sabbath and casting out demons by Satan’s power.

Jesus exposes them—brilliantly, boldly, and without apology.

“Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste...”

“A tree is known by its fruit.”

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

“Only those who do the will of My Father are My family.”

Let that last line hit you:

Jesus doesn’t define family by biology or belief—He defines it by obedience.

Devotional Challenge

Today, Jesus is still saying:

“Follow Me.”

But the real question is: **Will you actually follow Him when it costs?**

Ask yourself:

- Have I allowed comfort to replace conviction?
- Am I walking in obedience—or just watching from the crowd?
- Do I treat Jesus as King—or just as a consultant?

Write down one command from Jesus that you’ve been avoiding.

Then obey it. Immediately. Without excuse.

Final Word

Jesus forgives.

Jesus calls.

Jesus sends.

Jesus strengthens.

Jesus confronts.

Jesus commands.

This isn’t a safe Savior.

This is the Son of God—King of kings—demanding *everything* from you because He already *gave everything* for you.

So stop spectating.

Stand up.

Follow Him.

And don’t flinch when the Word cuts.

It’s sharpening you for war.

