

## Study questions for Matthew 9:10–19, 23–36

### 1. Why do you think Jesus chose to eat with tax collectors and sinners, and what does that communicate about God's heart?

Reference: Matthew 9:10–13; Hosea 6:6

Jesus intentionally placed Himself where religious leaders would not. By eating with tax collectors and sinners, He showed that God's mercy is not earned through moral performance but offered to those who recognize their need (Matthew 9:12–13). Quoting Hosea, Jesus reminds them that God desires mercy over ritual (Hosea 6:6). **Everyday application:** This challenges us to examine who we avoid and whether our compassion is selective.

### 2. How does Jesus' statement "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners" challenge our understanding of spiritual maturity?

Reference: Matthew 9:13; Luke 18:9–14

Jesus reframes righteousness not as perfection but as humility. Those who think they are "well" may miss their need for grace (Matthew 9:12–13). The Pharisee and tax collector parable reinforces this idea—self-awareness matters more than self-confidence (Luke 18:14). **Everyday application:** Growth often begins when we admit our weaknesses instead of hiding them.

### 3. What point is Jesus making with the imagery of the bridegroom and fasting?

Reference: Matthew 9:14–15; Ecclesiastes 3:1

Jesus explains that spiritual practices must match the moment. His presence brought joy, like a wedding celebration (Matthew 9:15). Fasting has value, but not when it ignores what God is doing right now. **Everyday application:** Faith should be responsive, not rigid. There is a time for discipline and a time for celebration (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

### 4. What do the illustrations of new cloth and new wineskins teach about change and growth?

Reference: Matthew 9:16–17; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Jesus teaches that new life cannot be squeezed into old systems. Trying to follow Christ while clinging to old patterns leads to frustration (Matthew 9:16–17). Transformation requires flexibility. **Everyday application:** When God brings change, we may need to let go of habits, attitudes, or expectations that no longer fit (2 Corinthians 5:17).

### 5. What stands out to you about the faith of the woman with the issue of blood?

Reference: Matthew 9:20–22; Mark 5:27–34

Her faith was quiet but courageous. She believed that even touching Jesus' garment could bring healing (Matthew 9:21). Jesus affirmed her faith publicly, restoring not just her health but her dignity

(Matthew 9:22). **Everyday application:** Faith does not have to be loud or perfect—sometimes it's simply reaching out despite fear.

#### **6. Why do you think Jesus told the crowd that the girl was “not dead, but sleeping”?**

Reference: Matthew 9:23–25; John 11:11–14

Jesus spoke from God's perspective, where death is not final. The crowd laughed because they relied on what they could see (Matthew 9:24). Jesus demonstrated that divine power is not limited by human certainty. **Everyday application:** We often give up too quickly on situations God still intends to restore.

#### **7. What does Jesus' response to the two blind men teach us about persistence and belief?**

Reference: Matthew 9:27–31; Hebrews 11:6

The blind men followed Jesus and cried out repeatedly, showing persistence (Matthew 9:27). Jesus asked if they believed—not to test them, but to invite trust (Matthew 9:28). **Everyday application:** Faith often requires continuing to seek God even before circumstances change (Hebrews 11:6).

#### **8. What do Jesus' words about the harvest and laborers reveal about His compassion for people?**

Reference: Matthew 9:35–38; Ezekiel 34:5–6

Jesus saw the crowds as weary and scattered, like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). His compassion moved Him to action, calling for workers to help meet the need. This echoes God's concern for neglected people throughout Scripture (Ezekiel 34:6). **Everyday application:** Compassion is not just feeling concern—it leads to prayer and participation.