

ii. "Take heart (be courageous), daughter..."

B. A Dead Girl (23-26)

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid
to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Why do you think the forgiveness of sins is so significant for relationships (vertical/horizontal)? How do we see this reflected in the text?
- Why does the announcement of the forgiveness of sins through Christ both welcome us to Christ and call us to welcome others? How do we actively welcome others to Christ's table?
- How do Jesus' actions (throughout Matthew 8-9) run contrary to the way the Pharisees were trying to achieve righteousness?
- How does this text speak to you? What connected with you most?
- Discuss the Hauerwas quote in I. C. in relation to Matt. 9:12.
- Discuss the "definition" of evangelism given in I. C. iii.
- How does the gospel call you to have a pure heart and hands that are willing to get dirty? (What might it look like?) Are there any dangers associated with this?
- What is so surprising about the account of the synagogue ruler? What evidence do we have that his faith was very strong?
- How significant do you think it is that two stories involving females are given in this context?

Sick Sinners, Synagogue Rulers, and Sisters

Jerry Cisar — July 7, 2019

Text: Matthew 9:9-26

Introduction

- A. The central aim or goal of Jesus' authority in these chapters, the key reason he exercises His authority, is to forgive sins!
- B. The forgiveness of sins breaks barriers and bursts wineskins! It means you are welcome and you must welcome!

I. Sinners (9:9-13)

- A. Matthew's Call (9)
 - i. Matthew is not earning the forgiveness of sins by following Jesus, he is demonstrating that his sins are forgiven!
 - ii. In order for us to *live*, to truly *live*, our sins must be forgiven!
- B. The Pharisees' Complaint (10-11)
 - i. What's wrong with working for the IRS?
 - a) Tax collectors were scorned because of their dishonesty.
 - b) "Sinners"

ii. The Pharisees' Devotion

a) The Pharisees and "salvation by segregation"

➤ Leviticus 10:10

b) Avoidance in order to shame them into change.

iii. Jesus thought very differently about this:

a) Rather than uncleanness being contagious, Jesus' cleanness was contagious.

b) *Forgiven sin* can't tarnish the *forgiver*!

C. Who Needs a Physician? (12-13)

i. Jesus is a friend of sinners, but He is more than that. He is a physician too! He doesn't leave us in our sickness.

Hauerwas: "Holiness begins with the recognition that we are not well.... The Pharisees have no need of this physician because their illness is to believe that they are well." (101, 102)

ii. Jeremiah 8:19-22

iii. Evangelism is people meeting and coming to know people, announcing the forgiveness of sins through Jesus, and calling them to live in the new community—a.k.a. the church!

D. Because of the forgiveness of sins, sinners are welcome and *must actively* welcome others.

***Interlude: Tearing Away Patches and Bursting Wineskins (14-17)**

A. Apparently, the disciples of John fasted in the same way that the Pharisees did.

i. Isaiah 58

ii. Isaiah 62:4-5

How can our lives be consumed with mourning when the One who forgives sins, indeed who makes forgiveness possible, is present!?!

B. The new wine of forgiveness must be poured into a new way of doing things.

II. Synagogue Rulers (18-19)

A. "Get this' a synagogue ruler."

i. Synagogue rulers were welcome at the Pharisees' table and are still welcome at Jesus' table!

ii. He bows before Jesus in worship.

B. Contrast with 8:21-22.

Synagogue rulers who need a physician, are welcome at the table of life. Religious people need physicians too!

III. Sisters (20-26)

A. A Woman Hemorrhaging Life (20-22)

i. What's the significance of 12 years?