

Matthew Volume 2 - The Visual Bible (*Matthew 9:2-14:36*)

Some men brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men. Matthew 9:2-8 NIV

The book of Matthew is filled with the miracles of Jesus. Matthew, the author of this book, had been a tax collector. In those days tax collectors were notorious for dishonesty and greed. Matthew was probably a wealthy man, but when he met Jesus he walked away from a good paying job and followed Him. Matthew spent the rest of his life learning from Jesus and in turn teaching others the Good News of the Gospel.

What do you think Matthew saw in Jesus that would cause him to get up and follow Him?

"Two blind men followed Jesus, calling out, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David!' The blind men came to Him, and He asked them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' 'Yes, Lord,' they replied. Then He touched their eyes and said, 'According to your faith will it be done to you'; and their sight was restored." Matthew 9:27-30 When Jesus touched their eyes the blind men could see. Just as people are physically blind, we can also be spiritually blind. Ask God to open your eyes to the truth of His word.

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure." Matthew 11:25-26 NIV Jesus was telling the people that faith is something that is so simple that a little child can grasp it. On the other hand many educated people won't be saved because their own wisdom and reasoning will stand in the way of simply trusting God. Faith is believing what God says.

Here is My servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out, till He leads justice to victory. In His name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:18-21 NIV When we are struggling with problems Jesus will be with us. When we feel like bruised reeds or smoldering wicks He will protect us.

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 13:47-50 NIV Although many people choose not to believe in heaven and hell, Jesus teaches that there will be a judgment day. All who call on Him will be saved.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowd. After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the water." Matthew 14:22-25 NIV

Dear Lord, we come to You weak and weary. Renew us with Your grace. Give us pure hearts and right spirits so that we can have the faith of a child. Open our eyes to the truth of Your word. When problems come our way help us to rise above them because of our faith in You. Protect and defend us in Jesus' name, Amen.