

# MATTHEW 9 vs 18

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**18 While He spoke these things to them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshiped him** / in Greek: proskuneo... literally, **pros = toward + kuneo = kiss**; this word most frequently used in the NT rendered: worship; the practice of many middle eastern and western cultures; possibly bowing down prostrate before him; so he came very respectful,

**saying, My daughter now is dead: but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live** / certainly this leader of the synagogue in Capernaum knew... Jesus was different than all the others who passed through the region.



**19 And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did His disciples.**

**20 And, behold a woman, who was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years came behind him, and touched the hem of His garment** / pay attention, here we learn Jesus can multitask. Other gospel writers tell us the daughter of this ruler was 12 years old, around 6<sup>th</sup> grade; and another had been infirmed as long as the little girl had lived; possibly incapable of walking... it seems crawling on the ground... as if she could only touch the hem on His clothing:

**21 For she said to herself, If I just touch His garment, I will be whole** / Jesus knows how to deal with faulty thinking; He came to ensure faith lives because without faith, we are powerless to please God.

**22 But Jesus turned about, and when He saw her, He said, Daughter, have courage; your faith has made you whole** / did Jesus anticipate her being caught reconsidering what she did? she was confident based on something God said; or what she heard Jesus say who spoke not like others.

**And the woman was made whole from that hour.**


**23 And when Jesus came to the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise** / emotionally clueless and incapable of doing anything other than make a ruckus; possibly paid performers... already engaged in their rehearsed drama,

**24 He said to them, Depart: for the little girl is not dead, but sleeps. And they scornfully laughed at Him** / suddenly these paid entertainers... thought Jesus was a comedian.

**25 But when the people were put out of the house, He went in, and took her by the hand,**

**and the little girl arose** / and we in the skeptical 21<sup>st</sup> century might find some of these brief narratives incredulous; fine! But when we start telling God what He can or cannot do; then we better reevaluate our genius. Every day there are unexplainable realities that happen. We know about many that most would simply dismiss, saying: I don't believe it! As if that settled the issue, but we don't have time.

**26 And this news went abroad through all the land.**

 **27 And when Jesus departed there, two blind men followed him, crying out, and saying, Son of David** / so these 2 men recognized Jesus wasn't like all those running around the countryside with their empty assertions and unsubstantiated claims to fame,

**Son of David... have mercy on us.**

**28 And when He entered into a house, the blind men came to him** / so only after Jesus moved the persistent blind men out of the public view, did He speak to them; was Jesus testing their resolve?

**and Jesus said to them, Do you believe I am able to do this?** / Matthew Henry writes, Note, faith is the great condition of Christ's favors. He did not inquire into their wealth... whether they were able to pay Him for a cure; nor did He inquire into their reputation... should He get credit for healing them. He inquired of their faith,

**They said to him, Yes Lord.**

**29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, Be it done to you according to your faith** / God is faithful; Abraham's faith was tested... Rahab the whore had faith... Moses was faithful... Stephen was full of faith... the centurion was great in faith... some had little faith, yet they too will hear: well done good and faithful servant; the Lord Jesus, the Originator and first to complete the race of faith... said, even if you have the faith of a mustard seed when He returns, fine! [But without faith we are powerless to please God.](#)

**Be it done to you according to your faith.**

**30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus immediately warned them, saying, See that no man knows** / Jesus was not looking for fame; He was looking for access to the masses; He did not need anybody's advertisement; He knew the people would come, as the faithless leaders sent their spies.

**31 But they departed and spread the news about Him in all that region.**

 **32 And as they departed, behold, a mute man, demon-possessed was brought to Him.**

**33 And after the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke: and the multitudes marveled, saying, Nothing like this was ever seen in Israel.**

**34 But the Pharisees said, He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons** / not a surprise to consider these religious hard heads would insult the work of the Lord; clearly their love of self was exacerbated by their envy and hatred for Jesus, but did He care? No! He had come to do His Father's will.

Jesus was on the move...

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35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom / asking ordinary people everywhere to: think differently... until they think correctly about what it is like where God lives and works and governs,

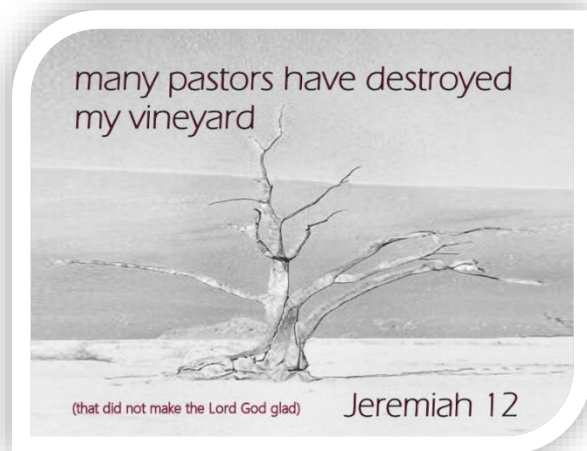
and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion / so Jesus the Messiah was not a hireling; He was not merely some paid employee,

He was moved with compassion... because they were distressed, and scattered abroad,

as sheep having no **Shepherd** / this verse could equally and more clearly read...

as sheep having no **Pastor** / in John 10, Jesus tells the religious leaders of his day, I am the good Pastor; My sheep hear My voice... and they follow Me! Ezekiel 34 is the great OT chapter describing worthless shepherds; forcing the Lord to change His plans and in essence say: **He will do the job!** I wonder what He would tell our 21<sup>st</sup> century? 750 years earlier the Lord said, Many pastors have destroyed My vineyard – **Jeremiah 12**



37 Then He said to His disciples,

The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few;

38 **So, pray the Lord of the harvest,**

that He will send forth laborers into His harvest

but after you pray, Don't quit! Keep going until you hear the Lord say: well done, good and faithful servant.

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