Lifegroup Study – 8th April 2018

**Mathew 9 – Part 1: Discipleship Training School**

**INTRODUCTION**

In Matthew 9 we join Jesus as he is recruiting more disciples to his group. Along with Peter and Andrew, James and John, we follow Jesus, similar to the way junior and trainee doctors follow the senior doctor around the hospital. They are attentive to the senior doctor, make careful observations and careful notes as to how the doctor speaks and acts. In the same way, studying Matthew 9 is like joining a Discipleship Training School. With the other disciples we take up the posture of an attentive student as the Great Physician, Jesus, is training us to be his disciples. And one of the first things we learn is that Jesus’ curriculum is an **action-based curriculum**.

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

**Read Matthew 9:1-13**

1Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. **2**Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”

3At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!”

4Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 6But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” 7Then the man got up and went home. 8When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

9As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

10While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

12On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**KEY POINTS FROM SERMON**

1. Real faith is lived-out: *my faith is as real as my actions show*. e.g. Matthew 9:2 – Jesus saw their faith. *Notes for leaders – in Matthew 9:11-13, the Pharisees believed the principal of prioritising mercy over sacrifice, but they were not living it out.*
2. Forgiveness of sins is everyone’s primary need. Other needs are temporary, and still important, but only forgiveness of sin has eternal consequences. (Matthew 9:2)
3. Jesus was a ‘friend of sinners’ (Matthew 9:10-12). In becoming more like Jesus we also need to be a ‘friend of sinners’, intentionally spend time with our non-Christian friends, family, neighbours and colleagues.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you heard the sermon, was there anything God spoke to you about personally from this message?
2. Within this passage, what insights into God’s character do you find?
3. **James 2:18** says “I will show you my faith by my deeds.” And later in vs 26, James goes on to say “faith without deeds is dead.” Discuss what this looks like in action for us as disciples of Jesus?
4. What do these passages teach us about God’s purposes for his people? What do you think this means for you personally?
5. **James 1:22** says “*Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*” What is the next step you need to take in response to God’s word?

**PRAYER POINTS**

* For each individual to have a personal revelation of what these scriptures mean for them.
* For any areas that individuals have highlighted they want to grow in
* Praise God for those that were baptised at our Sunday evening service and pray for their continued spiritual growth

