

Study Guide
Matthew 9:14-38
The Kingdom Has Come!

Big Idea: Legalism is crushing, but compassion is inspiring!

1. Read Matthew 9:14-17. Discuss the concepts that ...

a. Legalism overlooks context. (*Wedding/Bridegroom; New cloth/New wine*)

b. Legalism is ineffective. (*skins are destroyed*).

Share examples of how religious activity can be crushing for people. How does it lead to either pride or despair?

2. Read the following examples of Christ and discuss the desperation of the people He encounters and indicators of His compassion.

a. The ruler of the synagogue (Matthew 9:18-19 & 23-26).

b. The woman with incurable internal bleeding (Matt. 9:20-22).

c. The two blind men (Matt. 9:27-31).

d. The demon-oppressed man (Matt. 9:32-34).

3. Read Matthew 9:35-38. How is compassion reproducible? What can help us to be more compassionate to reach out to others?

Application

Take a few moments to pray quietly about the people God has brought into your life. Is there anyone you feel he wants you to possibly reach out to?

Next, pray that God will raise up and send out missionaries around the world.

Message Slides

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I. Legalism is Crushing (v.14-17)

¹⁴Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are **destroyed**. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

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A. Legalism overlooks context.

B. Legalism is ineffective.

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II. Compassion is Inspiring (v.18-38)

A. Compassionate with the Dying (v.18-19 & 23-26)

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."¹⁹And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples.

B. Compassionate with the Incurable (v.20-22)

²⁰And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, ²¹for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well."²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

Back to Jairus (v. 23-26)

²³And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. ²⁶And the report of this went through all that district.

C. Compassionate with the Blind (v.27-31)

²⁷And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David."²⁸When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."²⁹Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."³⁰And their eyes were opened. And

Jesus sternly warned them, "See that no one knows about it." ³¹But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

D. Compassionate with the Demon-oppressed (v. 32-34)

³²As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. ³³And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." ³⁴But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

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III. Compassion is Reproducible (v.35-38)

³⁵And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."