# Gospel of Matthew Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Matthew Chapter 9

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:Matthew 9 is a powerhouse of familiar YL talks! Here are some of the options I think could work quite easily: 1. **Jesus heals the paralytic (9:1-8)... A story about Jesus’ authority**
	1. People bring a paralytic on a bed to Jesus (9:1-2a)
	2. Jesus saw the people’s faith (9:2b)
	3. Jesus forgives the paralytic (9:2c)
	4. The scribes object to Jesus’ authority to forgive (9:3)
	5. Jesus proves his authority through a miracle (9:4-6)
	6. People recognize Jesus’ authority (9:7-8)... Do you?
2. **Jesus calls Matthew (9:9-13)... A story about Jesus’ invitation and Matthew’s response**
	1. Scene 1: An invitation (9:9)
		1. Jesus sees Matthew (9:9a)
		2. Matthew, a tax collector (9:9b)
		3. Jesus’ invitation: “Follow me” (9:9c)
		4. Matthew’s response: He follows (9:9d)
	2. Scene 2: An explanation: “who” is invited (9:10-13)
		1. Jesus’ sketchy company (9:10)
		2. Obvious question: Why is Jesus with sketchy people?! (9:11)
		3. Jesus’ answer: I go where people *need* me (9:12-13)
3. **Jesus heals a rich daughter and a poor daughter: A story about faith in Jesus (9:18-26)**
	1. Rich daughter (9:18) healed Part 1 (9:18-19)
	2. Poor daughter (9:22) healed (9:20-22)
	3. Rich daughter healed Part 2 (9:23-26)
	4. \*A great reminder that whether rich or poor, recognizing you are “sick” (9:12) is the issue.
4. **Jesus heals two blind men: A story about faith in Jesus, from hearing about Jesus to seeing Jesus (9:27-31)**
	1. Crying out for help (9:27)
	2. Persistent! Blind men find their way into the house where Jesus is (9:28a)
	3. Jesus’ question: Do you believe I can heal? (9:28b)
	4. Their answer: “Yes” (9:28c)
	5. Jesus’ reason for healing: Faith (9:29)
	6. Their response: Able to see and telling everyone about it (9:30-31)

*If you are looking for more of an intro talk or have a newer crowd, I’d suggest #2 above, Jesus calling Matthew.* *Otherwise, you have three great options to choose from.*  |
| Possible main point(s):* See main points #1, #2, #3, #4 above
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* #1 Jesus has authority that no one else had: authority to forgive, to heal, and more.
* #2 Jesus’ invitation is not about our qualifications, or about us being “good” in any way
* #2 Jesus’ is often with those who are very aware that they aren’t perfect and have lots of issues
* #3/#4 Jesus can heal
* #3/#4 Jesus responds when we respond to him in faith
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| What this has to do with our life:* #1 Ultimate authority in this world is not found in money, power, fame, but in Jesus
* #1 Sometimes we are those who carry our friends to Jesus, sometimes we are the ones on the mat
* #1 Jesus can forgive our sin
* #1 Jesus has authority whether we acknowledge it or not, we don’t “give” Jesus authority.
* #2 Nothing bad we have done will keep Jesus from inviting us to follow him
* #2 We should be careful to judge “who” comes to YL/WL
* #2 Will you follow Jesus?
* #3 Under what condition, or situation in life, would you kneel before Jesus?
* #3 Externals (rich, poor, popular, lonely, etc.) are not criteria Jesus looks at, he looks for faith
* #4 Sometimes a need (i.e. being blind) will help us call out for Jesus’ help, this is OK.
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| Relevant technical details:* **#1 Paralytic** (9:2): Often disease was associated with having “sinned” in Jesus’ time. See Jn. 9:2.
* **#1 Scribes** (9:3): Experts in the study of the Law of Moses, they spent much time making copies of the OT Law.
* **#1 Blaspheming** (9:3): The act of a human insulting God.
* **#1 Authority** (9:6, 8): You have authority when you can back up your claims. You don’t have authority if you can’t back up what you say. Jesus’ authority is made known through his actions, particularly through miracles.
* **#2 Tax collector** (9:9): Matthew becomes one of the Twelve Apostles (see 10:3), tax collectors were known to be thieves, involved with extortion, unpatriotic, “unclean” because of their interaction with all sorts of people.
* **#2 Meal** (9:10): To share a meal was a sign of intimacy
* **#3 Ruler knelt before Jesus** (9:18): This is Jairus who was a synagogue ruler whose daughter was 12 years old (Lk. 8:41). Kneeling to Jesus is a frequent visual in the gospels to his special status.
* **#3 Discharge of blood** (9:20): Likely a condition where menstrual flow is prolonged, in a Jewish context this would exclude a woman from being “clean” and a part of the community, including the faith community.
* **#3 Healed** (9:22): The word here, Greek: *sozo*, can mean both “healing” and/or “saved”.
* **#4 Son of David** (9:27): A special term, going beyond “Messiah”, which connects Jesus with God’s plans for Israel.
* **#4 Believe** / **Faith** (9:28-29): When Jesus asks “do you believe” and he says “according to your faith”... those are the same word (*Greek: pisteuo/pistis*). The ideas of faith, belief, and trust must be combined in English to arrive at the basic idea behind the faith and belief that Jesus calls for.
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| Possible illustrations:* #1: **Bed/mat** (9:2): Bring in a mat, or a stretcher (I got one from the fire dept once!) do part of the talk on the mat, consider having four kids from the crowd carry you on it for part of your talk.
* #2 **Table**: Set up a table and talk about how having a meal with someone is rare and bring a certain level of connection and even intimacy, this is what Jesus did with “sinners”.
* #2: **Invitations:** The key is if you respond! Bring a stack of invitations for a free soda or coffee with a leader. Give them to everyone in the crowd... the invitation is one thing, responding is a whole other issue!
* #3: **Kneel**: Kneel while you talk about what the ruler (Jairus) did in front of Jesus.
* #3: **Go into the crowd**: Act out how the bleeding woman must have snuck through the crowd to come up behind Jesus. Just by going “into” the crowd you will grab their attention.
* #4: **Turn lights off**: Ask what it would be like to be blind. Then talk while it is dark. Make the point that to only “hear” about Jesus is one thing, to “see” Jesus is another (turn on the lights).
* #4: **Hidden item**: Hide something under a sheet or cloth, then reveal it... Hearing and seeing are different, similar to turning off the lights.
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*For more details see ylhelp.com*

Matthew 9 (ESV)

**Jesus Heals a Paralytic**

**9**And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. **2**And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” **3**And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” **4**But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? **5**For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? **6**But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” **7**And he rose and went home. **8**When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

**Jesus Calls Matthew**

**9**As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

**10**And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. **11**And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” **12**But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **13**Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**A Question About Fasting**

**14**Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” **15**And 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. **16**No 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. **17**Neither 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.”

**A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed**

**18**While 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.” **19**And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. **20**And 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, **21**for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” **22**Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. **23**And when Jesus came to the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, **24**he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. **25**But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. **26**And the report of this went through all that district.

**Jesus Heals Two Blind Men**

**27**And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” **28**When 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.” **29**Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.” **30**And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, “See that no one knows about it.” **31**But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

**Jesus Heals a Man Unable to Speak**

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

**The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Laborers Few**

**35**And 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. **36**When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37**Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; **38**therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”