

# —Matthew 9:27-38|| Expository Thoughts on Matthew by J.C. Ryle—

## *Module 25 – Jesus the Healer*

Who is the person that you think least likely to know Christ? Can you share an unexpected story of someone coming to know Christ?

### I. Part 1 – Strong Faith in Christ may sometimes be found where least expected.

The blind men call Jesus the “Son of David” and yet they could not have seen the miracles but could only have known him by common report. They saw the truth which scribes and pharisees could not. They saw Jesus of Nazareth as the messiah and believed he was able to heal them.

#### Application:

We must never despair of anyone’s salvation merely because he lives in a position unfavorable to his soul. Grace is stronger than circumstances. The Holy Spirit can give faith and keep faith without book learning, money, and with scanty means of grace. We shall see many strange sights at the last day (*Mat. 20:16*).

### II. Part 2 – Jesus Christ has had great experience with disease and sickness.

Jesus went about all the cities and villages doing good. He was an eyewitness of all the ills that flesh is heir to. Jesus saw ailments of all kinds, sorts, and descriptions. He was a healer of every sickness and disease.

#### Application:

We do not know what suffering we may see in others or ourselves before we die. Jesus is specially fitted to be the sick man’s friend (*Rev. 3:20*).

### III. Part 3 – Jesus’ tender concern for neglected souls.

He saw multitudes of people, when he was on earth scattered about like sheep having no shepherd and he was moved with compassion. He saw them neglected by those who ought to have been teachers.

#### Application:

What are our feelings when we see such a sight? This is a question that should arise in our minds. It is easy to sneer at missions to the heathen and those who work for them; but the man who does not feel for the souls of all unconverted persons can surely not have ‘the mind of Christ’ (*1 Cor. 2:16*).

### IV. Part 4 – There is a solemn duty incumbent on all Christians who would do good to the unconverted part of the world.

We are to pray for more men to be raised up to work for the conversion of souls. It is to be a daily part of our prayers. If we know anything of prayer, let us make it a point of conscience never to forget this solemn charge of our Lord. Never, never may we forget that if we would do good to the world, our first duty is to pray!

# —Matthew 10:1-15 || Expository Thoughts on Matthew by J.C. Ryle—

## *Module 26 – Jesus Sends out the Disciples*

Here we see the first ordination which ever took place in the church of Christ. We see the first charge ever delivered to newly ordained Christian ministers. Jesus sends out the disciples to heal, preach, cleanse lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons to the Jews only.

### I. Point 1 – All ministers are not necessarily good men

We see our Lord choosing a Judas Iscariot to be one of his apostles. We cannot doubt that he who knew all hearts, knew well the characters of the men he chose; and he includes in the list of his apostles.

Ordination does not confer the saving grace of the Holy Ghost and therefore ordained men are not necessarily converted. We should not regard them as infallible, either in doctrine or in practice. We are not to make idols of them or put them in Christ's place. We are to prove their teaching by the Word of God, and to follow them so far as they follow Christ, but no further. It is a serious responsibility to be a minister of the gospel. Ministers need many prayers.

### II. Point 2 – The great work of a minister of Christ is to do good.

He is sent to seek 'lost sheep,' to proclaim glad tidings, to relieve those who are suffering, to diminish sorrow, and to increase joy. His life is meant to be one of 'giving,' rather than receiving.

This is a high standard. It is plain that the life of a faithful minister of Christ cannot be one of ease. He must be ready to spend body and mind, time and strength in the work of his calling: laziness and frivolity are bad enough in any profession, but worst of all in that of a watchman for souls.

It is plain that the position of the ministers of Christ is not that which ignorant people sometimes assign to them, and which they sometimes claim for themselves. They are not so much ordained to rule as to serve; they are not intended to have dominion over the church, as to supply its wants, and to wait upon its members (2 Cor. 1:24). Half the diseases of Christianity have arisen from mistaken notions about the minister's office.

### III. Point 3 – It is a most dangerous thing to neglect the offers of the gospel.

It shall prove 'more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah,' in the judgment day, than for those who have heard Christ's truth, and not received it.

Men are apt to forget that it does not require great open sins to be sinned in order to ruin a soul forever. They have only to go on hearing without believing, listening without repenting, going to church without going to Christ, and by and by they will find themselves in hell. (*John 16:9; Heb. 2:3*).

It will not save us to have lived in the full light of Christian privileges; and to have heard the gospel faithfully preached every week. There must be personal reception of his truth. There must be vital union with him. We must become his servants and disciples. Without this, the preaching of the gospel only adds to our responsibility, increases our guilt, and will at length sink us more deeply into hell. These are hard sayings, but the words of Scripture, which we have read, are plain and unmistakable. They are all true.