

# The Gospel According to Matthew

*Decided, Amazed or Open?*

September 19, 2021

## Matthew 9v14-34

14 Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" 15 And Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. 16 No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. 17 Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, 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."

18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue 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 got up and followed him, with his disciples. 20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, 21 for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, 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 When Jesus came to the leader'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 got up. 26 And the report of this spread throughout that district.

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, "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 and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you." 30 And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, "See that no one knows of this."

31 But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.

32 After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. 33 And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, "Never has anything like this been seen in Israel."

34 But the Pharisees said, "By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons."

What if Matthew is summarizing the different ways people have been responding to Jesus invitations?

Pharisees = Closed/Decided

Crowds = "Amazed"

If the first group is closed and the second decided, how would you describe the third?

When we assume we know how the world works, or how a day will go, or what God will do, what group does that put us in?

When we are entertained, amazed, amused, or generally intrigued by Jesus, what group does that put us in?

What are the distinct behaviors of the third group?

What if faith requires openness?

"Faith says because of Jesus there are possibilities I haven't imagined." \_ Tim Mackie

What is the value of knowing our current posture, whether in general or on a particular issue?

What is a situation in which we're currently choosing between closed, amused or open?

What would "openness" look like?  
What actions would it take?

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