

# **Matthew 9**

*Josh McDowell*

## I. Introduction.

A. What can cause us to make a difference in others' lives?

B. Jesus Christ is the key - what made a difference in His life will make a difference in our lives and others' lives in sharing Christ with others.

## II. Four keys to sharing Christ with others in a way that makes a difference. (Matthew 9)

### A. We need to see as Jesus saw.

1. When Jesus saw the multitudes around Him he looked through the way they were dressed and were talking. He saw that they were distressed and downcast as sheep without a shepherd.

a. They were spiritually torn.

b. They did not know where they were going in life.

2. Example of Olympic athlete who medaled many times but was still empty.

3. Example of speaker meeting with a philosophy professor looking for something to believe in.

4. Example of a professor who nearly committed suicide but received Christ through the speaker's book.

5. Example of a community leader who was so empty that he committed suicide.

6. Example of a high school student wearing chains who's father never hugged him.

7. We should want to see people as they really are - in great need.

### B. We need to feel as Jesus felt.

1. When Jesus saw the multitude He was moved with compassion.

a. It means to identify with people's hurts.

b. It means to feel what they are feeling.

2. Compassion always leads to involvement.

3. A great surgeon once said that he did not fear when his fingers would not work but rather when his heart stopped working.

4. Compassion is asking God that our hearts would break with the same things that God's heart breaks over.

5. Shame suicide is sweeping the nations - we need more compassion.

C. We need to pray as Jesus prayed.

1. Jesus prayed to the Lord of the Harvest that he would send out workers.

2. One great theologian said that you could pray it this way - Lord, send me out.

3. Prayer is a privilege.

a. We do not have the privilege to prayer unless we are willing to be used by the Holy Spirit.

b. Example of speaker giving over his station wagon instead of praying that the need would be met.

c. Example of speaker suggesting to a medical student to pray that he was going to use his medical training on the missionary field unless God closed the door instead of asking if God was opening the door - many doors were simply wide open. He went into missions.

D. We need to do as Jesus did.

1. Jesus got involved.

2. Example of a college student who convinced a professor to allow her to skip a showing of pornography for class.

3. Example of a surfer who got involved sharing the gospel.

4. Example of a car accident survivor who was sharing Christ even through suffering.

5. Example of an optometrist who read the Four Spiritual Laws - the gospel - through what his patients were asked to read.

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**STUDY GUIDE**

***Part 1: What do you see?***

1. List each key to sharing Christ with others and explain them in your own words.

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2. What does compassion look like? List some examples from your own life where you have seen Jesus' compassion through other people.

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3. Explain why the speaker argues that prayer is a privilege that must be met by a willingness to act.

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***Part 2: What do you think?***

1. Why is compassion so essential for service? Explain.

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2. Why do you think praying to God for workers to meet the needs of the downcast is so similar to praying that God would send the you out?

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3. How does sharing the gospel finally and ultimately meet the needs of the downcast - those without any direction in their lives?

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***Part 3: What will you do?***

1. Choose a couple of the illustrations that the speaker used. Why do these stand out to you? What kind of action do these examples encourage you to take in your own life?

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2. As Jesus got involved, what relationship did personal holiness and sharing the good news have in His service? How should this display itself in your life?

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3. Which of the four keys do you need to work on the most? Develop a plan that will encourage you to make progress in this area.

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