

**9:23**  
<sup>q</sup>2Ch 35:25;  
 Jer 9:17, 18

**9:24**  
<sup>r</sup>Ac 20:10  
<sup>s</sup>Jn 11:11-14

**9:26**  
<sup>t</sup>Mt 4:24

**9:27**  
<sup>u</sup>Mt 15:22;  
 Mk 10:47;  
 Lk 18:38-39

**9:29**  
<sup>v</sup>ver 22

**9:30**  
<sup>w</sup>Mt 8:4

**9:31**  
<sup>x</sup>ver 26; Mk 7:36

**9:32**  
<sup>y</sup>Mt 4:24  
<sup>z</sup>Mt 12:22-24

**9:33**  
<sup>a</sup>Mk 2:12

**9:34**  
<sup>b</sup>Mt 12:24; Lk 11:15

**9:35**  
<sup>c</sup>Mt 4:23

**9:36**  
<sup>d</sup>Mt 14:14  
<sup>e</sup>Nu 27:17;  
 Eze 34:5, 6;  
 Zec 10:2; Mk 6:34

**9:37**  
<sup>f</sup>Jn 4:35  
<sup>g</sup>Lk 10:2

<sup>23</sup>When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes,<sup>q</sup> <sup>24</sup>he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead<sup>r</sup> but asleep."<sup>s</sup> But they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup>After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. <sup>26</sup>News of this spread through all that region.<sup>t</sup>

### Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute (90)

<sup>27</sup>As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"<sup>u</sup>

<sup>28</sup>When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

<sup>29</sup>Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you";<sup>v</sup> <sup>30</sup>and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this."<sup>w</sup> <sup>31</sup>But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.<sup>x</sup>

<sup>32</sup>While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed<sup>y</sup> and could not talk<sup>z</sup> was brought to Jesus. <sup>33</sup>And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."<sup>a</sup>

<sup>34</sup>But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons."<sup>b</sup>

### Jesus Urges the Disciples to Pray for Workers (92)

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.<sup>c</sup> <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them,<sup>d</sup> because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.<sup>e</sup> <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest<sup>f</sup> is plentiful but the workers are few.<sup>g</sup> <sup>38</sup>Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

and restored her. Sometimes we are tempted to give up on people or situations that have not changed for many years. God can change what seems unchangeable, giving new purpose and hope.

**9:23–26** The synagogue ruler didn't come to Jesus until his daughter was dead—it was too late for anyone else to help. But Jesus simply went to the girl and raised her! In our lives, Christ can make a difference when it seems too late for anyone else to help. He can bring healing to broken relationships, release from addicting habits, and forgiveness and healing to emotional scars. If your situation looks hopeless, remember that Christ can do the impossible.

**9:27** "Son of David" was a popular way of addressing Jesus as the Messiah because it was known that the Messiah would be a descendant of David (Isaiah 9:7). This is the first time the title is used in Matthew. Jesus' ability to give sight to the blind was prophesied in Isaiah 29:18; 35:5; 42:7.

**9:27–30** Jesus didn't respond immediately to the blind men's pleas. He waited to see if they had faith. Not everyone who says he wants help really believes God can help him. Jesus may have waited and questioned these men to emphasize and increase their faith. When you think that God is too slow in answering your prayers, consider that he might be testing you as he did the blind men. Do you believe that God can help you? Do you *really* want his help?

**9:28** These blind men were persistent. They went right into the house where Jesus was staying. They knew Jesus could heal them, and they would let nothing stop them from finding him. That's real faith in action. If you believe Jesus is the answer to your every need, don't let anything or anyone stop you from reaching him.

**9:30** Jesus told the people to keep quiet about his healings because he did not want to be known only as a miracle worker. He healed because he had compassion on people, but he also wanted to bring *spiritual* healing to a sin-sick world.

**9:32** While Jesus was on earth, demonic forces were especially active. Although we cannot always be sure why or how demon-

possession occurs, it causes both physical and mental problems. In this case, the demon made the man unable to talk. For more on demons and demon-possession, read the notes on 8:28 and Mark 1:23.

**9:34** In chapter 9, the Pharisees accuse Jesus of four different sins: blasphemy, befriending outcasts, impiety, and serving Satan. Matthew shows how Jesus was maligned by those who should have received him most gladly. Why did the Pharisees do this? (1) Jesus bypassed their religious authority. (2) He weakened their control over the people. (3) He challenged their cherished beliefs. (4) He exposed their insincere motives.

While the Pharisees questioned, debated, and dissected Jesus, people were being healed and lives changed right in front of them. Their skepticism was based not on insufficient evidence but on jealousy of Jesus' popularity.

**9:36** Jesus was overwhelmed with compassionate pity for the people. His response echoes the deep inner mercy of God, often described in the Old Testament. Ezekiel also compared Israel to sheep without a shepherd (Ezekiel 34:5, 6). Jesus came to be the Shepherd, the One who could show people how to avoid life's pitfalls (see John 10:14).

**9:37, 38** Jesus looked at the crowds following him and referred to them as a field ripe for harvest. Many people are ready to give their lives to Christ if someone would show them how. Jesus commands us to pray that people will respond to this need for workers. Often, when we pray for something, God answers our prayers by using *us*. Be prepared for God to use you to show another person the way to him.