

## Things to do during the week/at Life group

1. Consider the lives that have been changed by meeting with Jesus recorded in Matthew 9
2. Read Matthew 10 in preparation for next Sunday's teaching

## Questions for discussion

1. What strikes you in the story of Jesus healing the paralysed man?
2. Why does Jesus forgive his sins before he heals him physically?
3. Why does Matthew include the story of the Tax Collector being changed by meeting with Jesus?
4. How would you understand the sayings about new wine and new wineskins today? How does the Church (nationally, worldwide, in general) need to think about being like new wineskins and not old wineskins?
5. The ruler who asked Jesus to raise his daughter from the dead was desperate. What does this story teach us about how Jesus meets with people? Have you know God meet with people in desperate need today? What happened?
6. What does the account of the woman with bleeding teach us about how Christ may change someone's life today?
7. Which of the four accounts of life change do you find the most inspiring? Why?
8. How did God first change your life? How does he continue to transform you today?
9. How do these accounts of people being changed inspire you in your faith in Jesus today?
10. Who are the people that you would most like to see changed and transformed by a meeting with Jesus today? How do you pray for



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# Sermon Notes

## Matt 9 Transformed Lives

Matthew, one of the 12 apostles, was the author of the Gospel. Matthew was a Tax Collector who left his work to follow Jesus (Matthew 9:9-13). In Mark and Luke he is known by his other name of Levi.

The Jewish nature of Matthew's Gospel suggests that it was written in Palestine, although some think it was written in Syrian Antioch. In the Early Church it was commonly held that Matthew wrote his Gospel first, which is why it comes first in the New Testament, but this is largely not held to be the case and that he copied much of Mark's Gospel. Therefore, if he copied Mark who was writing (we believe) in the early 50s, then Matthew had to be writing his Gospel in the late 50s or early 60s AD.

Matthew's Gospel was written in Greek, so therefore he was writing to a Greek speaking audience. They were also Jews. Matthew's Gospel, more than any other, has a keen focus on tracing Jesus' ancestry to Abraham, he has more quotations from the Old Testament than any other New Testament author and he fails to provide any explanation of Jewish customs. He emphasises Jesus as the 'Son of David', he speaks of the 'Son of Man', rather than 'Son of God', 'Kingdom of Heaven' rather than 'Kingdom of God' which would have been offensive to a Jewish audience who would never utter God's name. However, Matthew is the only Gospel to include the Magi at Jesus' birth, an indication that he is concerned that the Gospel is given to the Gentiles, and that Jesus is for all people.

Matthew's main purpose is to prove to Jewish readers that Jesus is their Messiah. He does this primarily by showing how Jesus' life and ministry is a

life in all its fullness

Matthew 9:1-26—Transformed Lives

**1. Paralysed Man – the sinner - is brought to Jesus**

**2. The Man who everyone hated—The Tax Collector**

The Jews were passionate about defending the Law – nothing could be added or taken away, but Jesus is saying that a new way is coming.

**3. Ruler's Daughter – Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56 – the man who was desperate**

**4. Woman with bleeding - the unclean woman**

**Jesus' defence is very simple – he has come to the sick.**

**New Wine and New Wineskins**

**How do you come to Christ today?**

Paralysed - with fear, but knowing you need your sins forgiven

Hated as the tax collector - with no one to turn to  
One who holds on to the tradition, and you don't  
anything to change in your religion, in your belief, in

