



Grace Assembly Of God

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture: Matthew 9

Title: Follow Me

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Summary of Chapter: This is a chapter packed with powerful stories of Jesus' healing of the sick, including a paralytic and the woman with the issues of the blood. However, within this series of healings, the gospel inserted the calling of Matthew to follow Jesus and questions about fasting. This chapter concludes with Jesus saying that the harvest is plenty but the laborers are few.

Key Verse(s) (NLT): How does it speak to me?

Matthew 9:9
As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

In this story, we see Jesus intervened in the routine of Matthew. Jesus did not say much but just uttered the words 'Follow Me'. But those words transformed the life of Matthew from being the tax collector to eventually an apostle and a gospel writer. Interestingly this call was embedded within the various healing stories in this chapter. Thus, Jesus does not just heal our sicknesses, He also heals our lives by calling us to follow Him. So, when we come to Jesus, our lives, physically, socially and spiritually can be healed.

I have followed Jesus for 22 years. Before that, I was like anyone out there who led an average and meaningless life. I was insecure and felt inadequate that I could achieve much in my life. However, after I followed Jesus and His ways, I saw God transform my life. I recalled, there was a phase in my career that I thought of quitting as I was struggling to deliver at work. However, as I asked Jesus about it, He asked me to stay on and to let Him chart the way ahead. Long story short, I stayed and I saw how God transformed the trajectory of my career and I experienced success after success at work. When we follow Jesus, He heals our lives and transformed us from ordinary to extraordinary in and through Him.

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult: Who have you been following all your lives? Career, prestige or even recognition by your loved ones? What are some of the decisions that you have made in your life that followed Jesus?

Youth: Are you facing hurts, identity confusion and misunderstandings? How can following Jesus help you? Who do you think you can be transformed to when you follow Jesus?

Child: Do you know that Jesus heals? Yes He does. He heals our physical body. Not only that, if our life is not right or we do wrong things, we can Follow Jesus and He can heal our lives and make it right.

P R A Y E R

Praying Scripture: Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for sending Jesus into this world so that we can follow Him. We know as we follow Him, our lives are changed. We will not be the same again. I/We want to pray for who also need healing. Not just physical healing. But perhaps healing of a society stigma. Healing of a wrong way of life. May you heal their lives just as how you healed the Apostle Matthew. Help us all to follow Jesus and live a new life in Him.

Thanksgiving Prayer: I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)

Intercessory Prayer: I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer: I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day).
 In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.