

Sermon for June 7, 2026
"Is There a Doctor In The House?"

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Is there a doctor in the house? I like doctors - and nurses. For the most part they are intelligent and nice people. Occasionally you will find one with a bad bedside manner, but what do you expect having to spend all that time with sick people. As a pastor I have noticed that there are a lot of doctors at the hospital.

You know what the problem is with hospital. It's all those sick people. They are always complaining about something: "My stomach hurts." "My head hurts." They take up all the time of those nice doctors and nurses.

You know hospitals would be much nicer places if they would get rid of all those sick people. Then there would just be those nice doctors and nurses. You could go to the hospital, and you wouldn't have to bother with the sick people. You could just visit the nice doctors and nurses.

All kidding aside, that is what the religious people were complaining about back in Jesus' day. Jesus went to those who were sin sick. It would be one thing if he had waited for them to repent and then come to him, but he went straight to them before they repented. While they were still sinners, he sought them out.

Matthew was an example of this. The Bible makes the point that Jesus went to the place where he was collecting taxes for the emperor to call Matthew. Tax collectors were collaborators with Rome. They were traitors to Israel, and they served a pagan power and made money for doing it. Matthew was one of these back-stabbing, yellow-bellied turncoats.

There he was, sitting at his tax desk, doing his dirty Roman tax collecting, when Jesus came to him. Jesus said, "Your father Abraham would turn over in his grave if he saw you sitting there. I call down fire and brimstone on you boy because you done forgot who you are!" No, that's not what Jesus said, but it's the kind of thing the religious people expected Messiah to do. Instead, Jesus said, "Come, follow me."

Jesus called him and Matthew followed!

That wasn't the whole of it. Jesus associated with sinners and ate with them. He spent all his time with people whose lifestyles were contrary to the Word of God! So, the religious people decided to take action because of Jesus' indiscretion. Jesus was setting a bad example - what kind of role model was he being? The religious people had a problem with Jesus' actions, so they did what religious people often do. They went around behind Jesus' back and complained to his disciples.

Jesus knew what was going on. He said, "The healthy don't need a doctor. It's the sick that need a house call. Go home and read your Bible. In it God says, 'What I really want is mercy not religious ritual.' I'm here not for the righteous, but for sinners."

Jesus is the great physician. He is the healer with a cure for human sin. His very blood holds the vaccine against the Devil and Hell. Jesus came to resuscitate spirits that were in a coma. He didn't come all the way from Heaven to just hang out with people who didn't need (or thought they didn't need) his help. He came for the sinners to be saved. So, he went to the sinners while they were still lost in sin, so that they could be called out of sin.

Is there a doctor in the house? Matthew's answer is "YES, praise God." He left that tax booth and stopped betraying his people to take up soul fishing. Almost as proof that there is a doctor in the house, he told two stories of people being healed of life long or life stealing illnesses. A woman has been bleeding for years, and Jesus stops the bleeding. A young girl is dead, and Jesus raises her from the dead.

These stories are metaphors for the spiritual state of the people. Some of them, like Matthew, were suffering the injuries of sin and were bleeding. Like that woman they had been bleeding for years. They had tried everything and still the injuries of sin hemorrhaged. Some like the religious leaders were in a coma if not dead. They were so far gone that they could not tell that they needed a doctor. Their souls had flat lined.

So, was there any hope for the dearly spiritually departed religious leaders? Yes, Dr. Jesus was in the house! You notice that it was a leader of the synagogue who came to Jesus? Did you notice what he said to Jesus? "My daughter is dead, but you can lay hands on her and she will live!" Now, that is faith! If a leader of the synagogue could have that kind of faith, then there was hope for the religious leaders. They too could be raised out of their spiritual demise, like that leader's daughter was raised out of death.

Is there a doctor in the house? YES! I'm not talking about any of the medical doctors or nurses sitting in the pews this morning. Jesus the soul doctor is here. He didn't come for the healthy people. He came to heal the sick. He is not here to raise the living, but to raise the dead.

You know most people have it all backward. They think that the church is for those who are spiritually healthy. They think that people shouldn't come to church until they have their sin condition fully treated. That would be like banning the sick from going to the hospital! The church exists for those who are sin sick and sorrow worn.

Jesus Christ came to heal the broken hearted and to raise up those whose spirits were dead. Dr. Jesus is in the house! If you don't need spiritual healing, then you're in the wrong place. If you long for a closer walk with God, for forgiveness, for grace, for peace, for healing, for new life... Then you are in the right place. The doctor is in. He will see you now!