



**Transformation is a supernatural process. (The Solution to the Identity Crisis)*

**Matthew 9:1* So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. *2* Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!"

4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? *5* For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? *6* But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." *7* And he arose and departed to his house.

8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Last week, we learned about sickness and torment.

Matthew 8:5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, **6** saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

Torment is a part of every sickness, so in Matthew Chapter 9, when Jesus is faced with another paralyzed man, Jesus goes right to the real problem. He healed him of his sins.

Gender Confusion is an internal problem seeking an external solution.

1. **The religious leaders immediately** declared Jesus of wickedness.

Jesus asked the scribes, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

2. **Jesus has the power to change you totally!**

Don't settle for a physical change. The internal and eternal changes are everlasting.

You may reform yourself or surgically change your body, but neither is a transformation.

**Jesus knows your true God-given identity.*

**Matthew 9:9* As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. *11* And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. *13* But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

1. ***Who or what did Jesus see at the tax table?**

He saw the man. He saw the future of a young person who would be sold out to Him and called Matthew to follow Him.

2. **Did Jesus see more than what Matthew recorded?**

Of course, Jesus saw more than what the Gospel of Matthew tells us. (See Mark 2:13 and Luke 5:27)

3. Matthew's invitation and Jesus' response in Matthew 9:13

Jesus' response came from Hosea 4:1, 5:6, and 6:6. To Israel, you lost the truth that I desire mercy, not sacrifice.

**The beginning of our identity is formed from our families.*

**Mark 2:13* Then He went out again by the sea; and all the multitude came to Him, and He taught them. *14* As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

15 Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. *16* And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"

17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

1. **Our 1st identity is often** around who is our family. Levi was the son of Alphaeus.

We see this in people who are saved all the time. What they went through in their lives continues to have some level of effect on who they are. But you will see it is less about the flesh every year and more about the Spirit.

2. **Jesus going to a tax collector's home** was considered inappropriate at best.

Note: Only Matthew's insight references the Northern Kingdom's destruction from Hosea.

If you worry about your reputation or what others will say, the devil and society have limited you.

**We may have been deceived when our primary identity is in our career.*

**Luke 5:27* After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." *28* So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.

29 Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. *30* And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

31 Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. *32* I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

1. ***What you are doing** may be a result of who you are, but who you are did not come about by what you've been doing. It came through what was "Done" for you.

2. **Careers change more often in the 21st century than in any other century.** Why? People are trying to find themselves in what they accomplish instead of who they are in Christ.

3. ***Levi's name means united; Levi's is a name signifying unification.**

As in many homes, Levi followed in his father's trade.

4. ***Matthew means: Gift of God**

A name change in the Bible reveals a transformation.

5. **Jesus saw the gift of God (Salvation) coming to Levi's life.**

You need a new family, so why not join one through adoption today?