

Matt. 9:9-13 (LD 51) "Call the Doctor!"

For the Children: Some people believe we should never see a doctor. As a result, some people – and their children – have even died, because they didn't get the medical help they needed. The Bible teaches that all people are born spiritually dead in sin. There is only one "Doctor" good enough to raise the spiritually dead and make them spiritually alive – and that is the Lord Jesus. If sinners do not hear about Him; or if they do not believe they need Him; or if they believe He is not able to help them – they will die in their sins. We must therefore make every effort to tell people about our great "Doctor." **Questions:** How is the Lord Jesus like a Doctor? How does He cure sin and its effects? Are there any people so bad that He cannot save them?

Introduction:

First Point: Medicine for the Sick

- 1) Tax-Collectors & Sinners: Matthew/Levi was originally a tax-collector. When called by Jesus, he put on a banquet for the Lord, and invited many other tax-collectors and "sinners" – people often excommunicated or shunned by pious Jews for their sins
- 2) The Doctor's Mission: The Pharisees reacted against the Lord's contact – "eating with tax-collectors and sinners." But the Lord made it clear that was precisely His mission: to call sinners to repentance. Should a doctor not visit the sick?
- 3) Hard-Cases: This should have caused great joy – to see that the Lord could heal those whom many would put in the "too-hard-basket," sinners beyond redemption. If the Lord can offer healing to such people, it implies He can redeem any sinner
- 4) Hosea's Tips for Healthy Living: That was essentially Hosea's point in Hos. 6:6, quoted in v. 13. God showed great love, kindness, grace, mercy and covenant-loyalty to a very sinful Israel in Hosea's time. But He insisted that His people respond by showing loyalty to Him and His mercy to others – which is the way of spiritual health
- 5) Radiating Health: Spiritual health results in the believer showing God's love to others. We do that by telling them the Gospel and forgiving them their sins against us. But we must also accept God's mercy for ourselves, rather than feeling that we are too wicked, or too slow in our spiritual growth for the Great Physician to heal. We can expect our growth to be often slow, because of our old nature

Second Point: Medicine for the "Healthy"

- 1) Total Sickness: When the Lord says that the "healthy" don't need a "doctor" He is not saying the Pharisees are really righteous – rather that they merely think they are. No one is righteous of themselves (Rom. 10, 23)
- 2) In Denial: Many of the Pharisees were actually in worse shape than those "tax-collectors and sinners" who repented, for they were in denial about their sinfulness. They therefore saw no need for the "Doctor." They were sinners without Christ
- 3) Lacking Mercy: Moreover, they saw themselves as morally superior to "sinners." The latter were only worthy of shunning. Hence their rejection of Christ for "eating" with such. They couldn't distinguish between a compromising socializing and the Doctor seeking to heal the sick
- 4) More Tips from Hosea: The Lord only accepts sacrifices motivated by His love and mercy – as opposed to sinners trying to earn His favour by formalistic sacrifices, while seeing themselves as inherently righteous and better than others
- 5) The Cure for Pharisees: However even Pharisees may also be healed. Their "medicine," which they must "go and learn," is the humility to admit their sin and turn to Christ; then to reflect God's mercy in showing mercy to others and in obeying His will

Conclusion: