

Service for Week 1st -7th June 2026

By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God we bring before you the sick and suffering in our world, for those afflicted in body, those troubled in mind and those who feel they can no longer cope with their life.

Reach out through all who work to bring wholeness and healing. Give them the ability to minister something of your care and compassion for all. In the name of Christ we ask it.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive them who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.

Amen

Bible Reading Matthew 9:9-13,18-26

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him

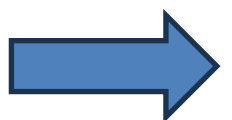
and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

From Verse 18

While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment.

When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region. Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.



Reflection

Before following Jesus and becoming one of the twelve apostles, we know that Matthew worked as a tax collector in the city of Capernaum. At that time men that collected taxes for the Roman Empire were distrusted and considered social outcasts. Because of this they would naturally stick together, so when Jesus went to eat at Matthew's house former friends and tax collectors Matthew knew came to eat with them.

In our bible text we read how Jesus has no problem mixing with those that society at that time had rejected. He talks and mixes with everyone and did not discriminate despite the criticism he received from the Pharisees. Jesus's answer to their protests was "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." and he had not come for the righteous but for sinners.

Then we read about two miracles firstly, how a ruler (in Mark's account a synagogue leader named Jairus) pleads with Jesus to come and heal his daughter who is dying. While on his way there we hear how a woman in the crowd believing that she only has to touch Jesus to be healed, touches the edge of Jesus's cloak and is healed. Then we learn that when Jesus finally reaches the sick girl he was on his way to see, he was told that she had died. But 'he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up'.

In writing about these two miracles which follow on from the account of the Pharisees' criticism of Jesus, what I believe Mathew is emphasizing for us is the totally open and accepting nature of Jesus. He mixes with those that society has outcast, he heals the woman in the crowd and he brings back to life the daughter of a prominent religious leader.

The miracles of healing and bringing back to life those that had died that we read about in the bible was through the love and compassion that Christ has and to demonstrate to all that he was from, and of God. That love has no boundaries, no one whoever they are or whatever they have done in life is excluded. God's healing hand still touches our lives today through our surgeons, doctors, nurses and health carers.

Whether we have the strength of faith of that woman who touched Jesus' cloak or the lack of faith of those that laughed at Jesus, God is with us through Jesus Christ whatever our circumstances.

Amen

Closing prayer

Lord Jesus, reach out to me with your loving hand to bring wholeness to my life and those around me that need your healing and renewing touch.

Amen

Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett