

# September 3, 2023

## Faith That Brings Controversy: Part 1

Pastor Brian Greenleaf



### Matthew 9:1-17

**1. Faith is not faith in the \_\_\_\_\_. Faith is faith in \_\_\_\_\_. (vs 1-8)**

- ✓ Jesus saw the faith of the friends
- ✓ Our greatest need is not physical healing, but spiritual
- ✓ Physical needs should not come at the expense of spiritual needs

**2. No matter what you give up, you \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus (vs 9-13)**

- ✓ Following Jesus mean forsaking something
- ✓ Following Jesus means a new direction

**3. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the old life with the new life (vs 14-17)**

- ✓ Jesus did not come to abolish the law but fulfill it (Matt 5:17)
- ✓ Jesus came to introduce something new, not to patch up something old

*"True faith rests upon the character of God and asks no further proof than the moral perfections of the One who cannot lie." ~ A.W. Tozer*

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### Sermon Talks

1. What caught your attention in this week's message? Was there something you had never heard before or something you had a question about?
2. What do each of the events recorded in this chapter have in common?
3. Reread Matthew 9:1-8 and include Mark and Luke's account (Mark 2:1-12 and Luke 5:17-26)
  - What is the relationship between faith and works?
4. Do you, at times, find yourself having more faith in the result than in God Himself?
5. In Luke's account of the "Calling of Matthew" (Luke 5:27-31), he says that Matthew left everything to follow Jesus.
  - Knowing how people viewed tax collectors, why do you think Jesus chose Matthew?
  - Has there been anything particularly hard to give up in your following of Jesus?
6. When we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, we receive something new, the gift of salvation. We are new (Ezekiel 36:26, 2 Corinthians 5:17)
  - Since receiving Jesus' salvation, do you find yourself trying to hold onto things from your old life? If so, what?
  - Read Ephesians 4:22-23. What do these verses say we are to do with our former way of life?

**Pray about it: Meditate on God's Word (Matthew 9:1-17) and this week's message.**

**Adoration:** What can I praise God for in light of what this teaches me?

**Confession:** What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving:** What can I thank God for in light of what He has done?

**Supplication:** What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?