

# Could my heart be sick?

## Matthew 9 v9-13

We see from this passage that we can feel really healthy like the Pharisees did, but can actually still be very sick! How can we see if we are sick on the inside, even if it doesn't show on the outside? How can we be softened to be totally reliant on all that Jesus has done, and not on our own efforts?

### 1. **Diagnosis - could my heart be sick?**

- a. **Tim Keller: "It is possible to avoid Jesus as Saviour as much by keeping all the Biblical rules as by breaking them all."**
  - a.i. How does this make you feel? How would you know if this was the case? What characteristics mark out someone who is following all the rules, but doesn't know Jesus? How would someone who does follow Jesus differ?
- b. **My greatest weakness is to think I could never be like the Pharisees.**
  - b.i. How did you think about the Pharisees before Sunday's preach? Has your view changed?
- c. **The longer we are Christians the more prone we are to depend less on Jesus for our right standing before God.**
  - c.i. How long ago did you come to Christ? Can you remember how it felt? Do you still have that same feeling now?
- d. **The Pharisees had i) hard hearts, ii) harsh hearts, iii) bitter hearts.**
  - d.i. Take a moment to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal if any of these things have snuck into your heart.

### 2. **Surgery - making my heart well**

- a. v13 - Jesus desires 'mercy, and not sacrifice'.
- b. A good heart check is to see if you feel you sacrifice a lot for God or the church, and therefore feel God owes you something back in return.
- c. **Jesus is looking for and inward heart change:**
  - c.i. An awareness that we all serve from the same place - with the righteousness of Jesus. Nothing we do (or don't do) helps us to stand before Christ better than someone else. (Parable of unmerciful servant Luke 18 v9-14)
- d. **Which fuels an outward heart change:**
  - d.i. Serving and sacrifice from a place of joy (Parables of treasure in a field and pearl of great price).

d.ii. How do you feel when you serve God or give sacrificially of your time, gifts and money? Does it come from a place of joy?

**3. Prevention - keeping my heart healthy**

a. **Jesus called us, as sinners, to himself. Great assurance for us that he was active in us before we knew him.**

a.i. How can focussing on what Christ has done for us keep our hearts from getting sick again?