

**Text: Matthew 9:1-13; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26**

**Series: IN SEARCH OF FAITH**

**# 3**

**Commendation of Faith**

**Example 1**

**1. The faith of the friends of the paralytic**

- a) When Jesus saw their faith Mark 2:5
- b) Power to forgive sins Mark 2:5
- c) Power to heal Mark 2:11-12

**2. The absence of faith**

- a) Why does this Man speak blasphemies? Mark 2:7
- b) Who can forgive sins but God alone? Mark 2:7

**Example 2**

**1. The Calling of Matthew** Matthew 9:9

- a) A tax collector
- b) Invitation extended: "Follow Me" Matthew 9:9
- c) Response of Matthew: "So he arose and followed Him" Matthew 9:9

**2. The significance**

- a) Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick  
Matthew 9:12
- b) Learn what this means: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice"  
Matthew 9:13
- c) I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance Matthew 9:13

**SIGNIFICANT LESSONS**

1. Forgiveness of sins
2. Understanding and appreciating mercy
3. Appropriate response
  - a) Heart-felt
  - b) Whole-hearted
  - c) Life-changing decision