



## **The Doctor and the Bridegroom (Matt. 9:9-17)**

### **1. Jesus: The Doctor (vv. 9-13)**

- a. The Call (v. 9)**
  
- b. The Feast (v. 10)**
  
- c. The Criticism (v. 11)**
  
- d. The Response (v. 12-13)**

### **2. Jesus: The Bridegroom (vv. 14-17)**

- a. The Question (v. 14)**
  
- b. The Answer (v. 15)**
  
- c. The Illustrations (v. 16-17)**

### **3. Us: Patients and Wedding Guests**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from the message did you find most helpful, most challenging, or most troubling? Please explain.
2. How comfortable would you have felt if you were in attendance at Matthew's banquet? Have you ever been in a similar situation, and how did you respond?
3. Matthew 9:13 is not the only time that the Pharisees' knowledge of Scripture is called into question. See also Matthew 12:3-7; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31; John 5:39-40 and 5:46-47. What are some lessons for us from all of this?
4.
  - a. Consider what Jesus says about fasting in the lives of His disciples in v. 15. See also Matthew 6:16-18, Acts 13:1-3, and Acts 14:23.
  - a. What do we learn about fasting from these passages? What part in your life does/could/should fasting play?
5.
  - a. What do the following passages add to our understanding of Jesus as the bridegroom?
    - Isaiah 54:4-8; 62:4-5
    - Hosea 2:16-23
    - John 3:23-30
    - Ephesians 5:20-30
    - Revelation 19:6-9
  - b. What are some implications of all of this for your relationship with the Lord?
6. Respond to the idea that "The church should feel more like a waiting room for a doctor than the waiting room for a job interview" (Tim Keller).
  - a. Which do you think EBC feels more like?
  - b. What behaviours or practices reinforce this perception?
  - c. What part can you play in helping our church be shaped by Jesus' identity as doctor and bridegroom?