**The Great Physician**  
**Matt. 9:10-13**

Introduction:

A. Jesus used various vocations to illustrate spiritual truth.
   1. Farmers: sower - vine dresser - Shepherd.
   2. Fisherman
   3. Physician

B. “Physician” suggests *considerations* about the work of Jesus — Patient, Physician, Prescription.

Discussion:

I. **The Patients of the Great Physician.**
   A. “Not the righteous, but sinners” (v. 13; cf. Rom. 3:10, 23; 5:12).
   B. The nature of the disease:
      2. Contagious (1 Cor. 15:33; Gal. 2:11-13).
      3. Fatal if not arrested (Jas. 1:15; Rom. 6:23).
      4. Will not cure itself — only gets worse (2 Tim. 2:16; 3:13).

II. **The Great Physician Himself.**
   A. He is eminently qualified -- able. (Heb. 7:25).
   B. He is greater than all other physicians.
      1. Many won’t come unless sent for and payment guaranteed (cf. John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
      2. May catch the disease themselves (cf. Heb. 4:15).
      3. Often lose patients who take their medicine (cf. 2 Pet. 1:5-10).

III. **The Prescription of the Great Physician.**
   A. It is the His gospel (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).
   B. It must be taken. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:16; Lk. 2:47).
   C. It must be taken as directed (cf. Rev. 22:18).
   D. It must be taken without excuses:
      1. “Can’t understand how it works” — Lack of faith in Physician.
      2. “Won’t do any good”
         a. Too sick” — “Not good enough to be a Christian.”
         b. “Won’t last, may get sick again” — “May not hold out.”
   E. It may be a “bitter pill” for some to swallow.
      1. The demands of repentance.
      2. The demands of discipleship (cf. Lk. 14:26, 27, 33).

Conclusion:

A. If hungry and refuse food, who is responsible?
B. If sick and refuse treatment, who is responsible?
C. If sinner and refuse gospel, who is responsible?