

V. THE POWER AND AUTHORITY WHICH THE KING OF ISRAEL DISPLAYED

Matthew 8:1 - 9:34

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Matthew records how...

A. JESUS DISPLAYED HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY WHEN HE WAS CONFRONTED WITH SICKNESS AND DISEASE (Matt. 8:1-17).

1. When Jesus was confronted with leprosy He healed the leper (Matt. 8:1-4).

Matthew states when Jesus had finished His sermon on the mount He came down and was met by a leper who sought to be healed and evidenced his faith in the Lord Jesus. He believed if Jesus willed him to be cured, it would surely come to pass. Then Jesus not only spoke the word, that He was willing for him to be healed, but Jesus also touched the leper and He was immediately healed. Jesus did what others would not do, to touch a leper and run the risk of being infected, and what others could not do, that is to heal his leprosy. Jesus then charged the man, cleansed of leprosy, to tell no one but to show himself to the priest for his pronouncement and offer an offering according to the law of Moses. Note Lev. 14:4-6. In His charge for the man to keep silent it seems that Jesus was acting against the mood of the multitudes to make Him a King, knowing that the Nation was unrepentant and that He would be rejected and crucified before He would be accepted as King and His kingdom established. Note Matt. 9:30; 12:16; 17:9).

2. When Jesus was confronted with the problem of palsy or paralysis He healed the centurion's servant (Matt. 8:5-13).

Matthew says when Jesus had come into Capernaum a centurion besought Him to heal his servant who was sick of the palsy. When Jesus would have gone to him, the centurion objected expressing his own unworthiness but also his faith in the Lord Jesus. The centurion then asked Jesus to just speak the word using His authority as he himself was under authority and only had to speak for his will to be carried out. When Jesus heard his words He used the faith this man demonstrated to point out what was lacking in the Jewish nation and why many Gentiles would enter the kingdom while the unsaved Jews would be consigned to eternal judgment. Jesus then spoke the word and the centurion's servant was healed.

3. When Jesus was confronted with other sicknesses He cured them as well (Matt. 8:14-17).

Matthew states when Jesus came into Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, but Jesus touched her and healed her. Notice when Jesus healed someone it was instantaneous and complete, so that Peter's mother-in-law was able to get up immediately and serve. Later that same evening many who were sick or demon-possessed came to Jesus and He healed them. Notice, once again, Matthew points out that Jesus, healing the sick was the fulfillment of Scriptures.

B. JESUS DISPLAYED HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY WHEN HE WAS CONFRONTED BY WOULD-BE DISCIPLES (Matt. 8:18-22).

Matthew records that Jesus decided to cross over to the other side. This would mean departing from Capernaum across the Sea of Galilee to Gadara. Before Jesus could depart, He was met by a Scribe and another follower who seemingly were willing to put everything aside to follow Him. Jesus then mentioned the cost of discipleship and the challenge to put Him before everything else. Since no mention is made of their responses it is assumed that they refused to follow Jesus when they weighed the cost and challenge of discipleship. Jesus displayed His authority when He challenged these would-be disciples to put Himself before all other persons and all other pursuits.

C. JESUS DISPLAYED HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY WHEN HE WAS CONFRONTED BY NATURAL ELEMENTS (Matt. 8:23-27).

Notice while Jesus and His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee there arose a storm which caused the disciples to fear for their lives and to call upon Jesus. When Jesus had rebuked their lack of faith He then rebuked the wind and the sea and the storm subsided. This caused the disciples to marvel. They did not realize the Creator and Sustainer of the universe was with them and that He who spoke everything into existence can order it as well according to His will.

D. JESUS DISPLAYED HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY WHEN HE WAS CONFRONTED BY THE TWO DEMONIACS OF GADARA (Matt. 8:28-34).

Matthew records when Jesus had crossed over the Sea of Galilee into the country of the Gadarenes He was confronted by two who were demon-possessed and who also would block His way (Matt. 8:28). From this account it is seen that the demons know who Jesus is, and that they will one day be judged, so they besought Him to let them go into a herd of swine. Jesus cast them out and they entered into the swine and this caused the swine to run off a cliff into the sea and were drowned (Matt. 8:29-32). When the keepers went into the city and told what had happened the whole city came out and besought Jesus to leave their country (Matt. 8:33,34). What a sad commentary that they cared more for swine than the Son of God. There was no concern or gratitude for the demoniacs being healed. They valued material things more than the welfare of men.

E. JESUS DISPLAYED HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY AS THE ONE WHO FORGIVES SIN (Matt. 9:1-8).

After being rejected in the country of the Gadarenes Jesus sailed back to His own city of Capernaum. Then a paralytic man was brought to Him. When Jesus saw the faith of those who had brought the man, He pronounced that his sins were forgiven (Matt. 9:1,2). Two things should be noted here. First, those who had brought the paralytic man demonstrated their faith in removing the roof tiles and lowering the man before Jesus (Matt. 2:3-5; Luke 5:18-20). Secondly, it seems from Jesus' pronouncement that this man's sickness was somehow related to some former sins. The Scriptures teach that sin oftentimes does, in deed, lead to sicknesses (Gal. 6:8; I Cor. 11:30). When Jesus pronounced that the man's sins were forgiven some of the Scribes charged Him with blasphemy. To their charge Jesus asked them a question. It was obvious that anyone could say that someone's sins were forgiven because there was no proof to substantiate such a pronouncement.

Then, Jesus told the man to "arise, and take up his bed..." that they might know that He, the Son of man, had power (authority) to forgive sins. This caused the multitudes to marvel and glorify God (Matt. 9:3-8).

F. JESUS DISPLAYED HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY WHEN HE CALLED MATTHEW AS A DISCIPLE (Matt. 9:9).

The Scriptures teach when Jesus left the house where He forgave the man's sins and healed him, He then passed by a tax collector's office and called Matthew (Levi, Mk 2:14) to follow Him. Since tax collectors were hated by the Jews because they served the interests of the Roman government and oftentimes dealt dishonestly in taxing the people, choosing him as a disciple was sure to meet with opposition by the Jewish leaders. In calling Matthew Jesus would show the leaders of Israel, as well as all mankind, several very important lessons. First, it would reveal His purpose for coming into this world (Matt. 9:12; Lk. 19:10). Secondly, by choosing Matthew it would show that anyone could be saved and go on to serve the Lord. Matthew was later chosen to serve as one of the twelve and chosen to write the gospel account which bears his name (Matt. 10:3).

G. JESUS DISPLAYED HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY WHEN HE WAS CONFRONTED BY THE PHARISEES (Matt. 9:10-13).

After Matthew's call, when Jesus sat eating in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners gathered and ate with Him (Matt. 9:10). This led the Pharisees to question Jesus' disciples and the Lord Jesus answered them with a parable to point out the need for them to see their own sinful condition (Matt. 9:11,12). Jesus then challenged them to find out the meaning of what was stated in Hosea 6:6 and stated why He Himself had come (Matt. 9:13). The religious Pharisees kept the letter of the law but they had no mercy or compassion for sinners. They gathered only with self-righteous people like themselves.

H. JESUS DISPLAYED HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY WHEN HE WAS QUESTIONED BY THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (Matt. 9:14-17).

When Jesus had answered the Pharisees some of John the Baptist's disciples came to Him and asked a question concerning fasting. Why didn't Jesus' disciples fast? Jesus answered them with an illustration of a bridegroom (Matt. 9:14-15). He was the Bridegroom and His disciples were the wedding guests. There was no need for them to fast or mourn while He was with them, but there would be a time for that when He would be taken from them, no doubt meaning at His death, burial and then at His ascension.

The question asked by John's disciples led the Lord Jesus to use two analogies to show that the dispensation of the law was coming to an end and the dispensation of grace was beginning (Matt. 9:16,17). A new cloth on an old garment illustrates that law and grace cannot be mixed. New wine in old wineskins illustrates that the blessings of grace could not be contained in the rituals of the law.

I. JESUS DISPLAYED HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY WHEN HE WAS CONFRONTED BY SOME OTHERS WHO WERE SICK AND BY OTHERS WHO WERE DEMON-POSSESSED (Matt. 9:18-34).

This display of power and authority included the healing of the synagogue ruler's daughter, the woman with the issue of blood, the two blind men given sight, and casting out a demon from a dumb man who could not speak. Notice while the multitudes marveled at the mighty power of the Lord Jesus, the unrepentant Pharisees charged that Jesus had cast out the demon by the prince of the demons or Satan (Matt. 9:34).

EXPOSITORY NOTES

- 8:11 Notice some clear things about the Kingdom of heaven from this verse. First, it is evident that the Kingdom will be a literal Kingdom and not just a spiritual Kingdom. It will one day be established, although it has presently postponed. Secondly, it is evident that the church is not the Kingdom being mentioned because when it is established those in it will sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- 8:14: This verse shatters the religious claims of Roman Catholicism that Peter was celibate and set an example or all the popes who followed him. Such teachings are doctrines of demons according to the Scriptures (I Tim. 4:1-3).
- 8:17 It should be noted that certain Charismatic groups teach that there was physical healing in the atoning work of Christ on the cross. As a result, many are led to believe they can claim their healing of all manner of physical diseases by faith in that atoning work. Two things are decided wrong about such a view. First of all, Christ didn't die for our diseases although many are, indeed, the result of sin, He died for our sins (I Cor. 15:3; Heb. 9:28; I Pet. 2:24; 3:18). Secondly, the Scriptures teach that Christ fulfilled the Scriptures of Isaiah, the prophet, during His healing ministry. It was then, as He went about healing the sick, that He bore men's physical diseases not when He died on the cross.
- 8:20 Here Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man. His divine name is Son of God and His Jewish name is Son of David. As Son of Man, Jesus identifies Himself as the Messiah who has come as a man to redeem His people (Luke 19:10).

QUESTIONS WE CAN APPLY TO OUR LIVES

1. What two things can we learn from Matt. 8:3 about the Lord's healing?

2. How is Matt. 8:17 misapplied by Charismatic groups of our day?

3. What does Matt. 8:22 mean and what spiritual principle can we apply from this?

4. What lesson can we learn from Matt. 8:24-26 about dealing with the storms in our lives?

5. What does Matt. 8:11,12 teach about the need to have more than mere religion?

6. What was the Lord Jesus teaching in the two analogies of Matt. 9:16,17?

7. What do all the miraculous healings done by the Lord Jesus in this chapter prove?
