

Introduction:

- We saw two weeks ago as we looked at Matthew 8-9:7, that God's willingness plus our faith releases God's authority. Last week we answered the three questions Matthew poses: Does He think He is God? Why does he eat with such scum? Why doesn't he fast like we do?
- Mt 9:18-34
- Tonight, a third group of miracles which demonstrate and extends Jesus authority over afflictions which must bow to Him.
- Unlike the other Gospels Matthew does not use as much detail to describe these events. Actually he uses almost half the words to describe them as the other Gospels do.
- While the primary focus may be on the deliverance of the individual the wider focus that Matthew presents is:
 - How the people are responding to His authority.
 - And over the authority of the Messiah over incurable situations, impurity/uncleanness, and death.
 - We have already seen his authority over sickness, nature, demons, authority over sin.
 - And Jesus demonstrates his authority with joy and freedom being brought to people who are freed from danger, disease, demons and death. They are enjoying the New Wine of the Kingdom of Heaven.

I. Authority Over Death

- A. The synagogue ruler who's daughter had died.
 1. Jesus is going to lay hands on a dead girl.
 2. Jesus has a surprising 'disregard' for the law which said that touching a dead body would make you unclean.
- B. The man had faith, "*you can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand upon her.*" His very words communicate that he has faith in Jesus to do what He does best.
 1. The man's faith, plus
 2. Jesus willingness
 3. Was about to release His authority.
 4. He puts out the doubters.
- C. "He said to them, "*Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.*" *And they ridiculed Him.*" (Matthew 9:24, NKJV)
 1. Jesus is using a very thought provoking parallel between death and literal sleep (specific to Mt.)
 2. "If death is sleep then it allows the possibility of waking up." NICNT Matthew. p. 364
 3. Therefore death is not an end just a temporary experience. She really is dead but death is not final! Huge point being made by Matthew. Remember he is writing from a perspective of post resurrection and he is making a point as he writes. He is not just recording history. He is teaching a truth that more than likely not have been grasped or understood at the time.
 4. The miracle sweeps through the entire country side.

II. Authority Over Incurable Afflictions

- A. The woman with the issue of blood.

1. She has lived the last 12 years of her life ceremonially unclean. Lev 15:19-33.
 - a) She is dealing with the physical challenge of this
 - b) She is also dealing with the unending inconvenience of impurity.
 - c) By attempting to touch Jesus she runs the risk of making Him unclean.
2. Matthew takes a slightly different approach than the other Gospels. The other Gospels have her touch his garment and the healing happens. Matthew has Jesus speak to her vs. 22 *"Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well."*
 - a) The word healed, vs. 21 and twice in 22 (made you well) and (was healed) come from the Greek word 'sozo'.
 - b) solo - "In the healings of Jesus *sōzō* occurs 16 times and *diasōzo* twice. Often faith is said to have saved, and the reference is always to the whole person. Clearly, then, the salvation extends to more than the physical sphere." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 1135). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
- B. Jesus commends her faith. See 8:10 *"I have not seen faith like this in all Israel."*
 1. As a preacher Matthew is using his writing to encourage those 'who have not seen' to believe.
 2. Why? Because Jesus has authority over incurable, unclean situations.
- C. The woman's faith, plus God's willingness, resulted in the release of authority over her incurable affliction.

III. Authority Over Handicaps

- A. Handicap - "a physical or mental disability making participation in certain of the usual activities of daily living more difficult." dictionary.com I am using the word handicap to illustrate the need for a creative miracle.
 1. There is no parallel to this event in the other Gospels.
 2. Their cry is *"Son of David have mercy on us!"* see 9:13 Mercy is what God requires and here again 'mercy' is what God demonstrates.
 3. Son of David was an understood title of Messiah. Matthew uses it 6 times in his Gospel. Messiah should be one to have authority over handicaps.
- B. There is a key shift in vss. 28 and 29. Faith has been crucial factor in all of the prior healings/release of authority up to this time.
 1. "This is the first time that it is set before the one asking as a condition of healing." NICCNT p. 367
 2. The centurion declared his faith 8:8-10
 3. also the leper 8:2
 4. the official 9:18
 5. the woman in secret 9:21
 6. But these men are required to believe.
 7. They are asked to keep quiet...most of time I believe this is so that Jesus can have a clear get away.
- C. Demon possessed man who cant speak is delivered.
 1. The pharisees do not deny Jesus power. They deny its source.

Conclusion:

- Matthew is again following in the theme of Jesus authority.
 - Sermon on the mount - we have never heard anyone teach with such authority.
 - Jesus in chapter 8 and start of 9 demonstrate that authority over sickness, nature, demons, sin.
 - He answers the question posed by the different groups to demonstrate His authority. He is not afraid, of sin or sinners and He is the Son of God.
- He continues the authority theme by adding two more categories: He has authority over death. He has authority over handicaps.
- Next week is a totally new shift in the book of Matthew.