

## The King's Authority Part 2: Demons, Sin, Salvation

- **Intro:**
  - Palm Sunday—the day Jesus comes in on a donkey to the cries, “hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”
  - **Context:**
    - 3 miracles; discipleship; 3 miracles; discipleship, 3 miracles; discipleship (this is pt. 2)
    - The disciples now row toward Gadarenes asking, “what sort of man is this?”
    - Transition Section—our real issue is much deeper than simply cancer or tornadoes
- **Jesus has authority over Demons (8:28-34)**
  - As the disciples are asking, “what sort of man is this,” the demons come out in Gadarenes declaring who he is!
  - **Matthew’s narrative MUST go here—for him to be Messiah, he must deal with the Devil!**
  - **Son of God—the demons are answering the question of the disciples in 8:27**
    - Want to know what sort of man he is? —he is God himself!
    - **What separates saints from demons is loving obedience, not naked knowledge!**
      - **Demons are afraid because of their BELIEF; we are often afraid because of UNBELIEF**
  - **“before the time”**—the demons know there is a day appointed where they will be destroyed once and for all
    - There is a day coming where temptation/torment, paralysis and disease, death and disaster will all CEASE and God will judge and reign fully as King!
  - **“If you cast us out”**—they were in total submission to him; they had no sway!
  - **This is our story**—we are like the 2 men; maybe not possessed by demons but possessing an evil, sin sick nature; **our sin leads to violence/wickedness and isolates us from community; it literally makes us as if dead in a graveyard, without hope...UNLESS JESUS COMES! And Jesus does come and he saves, rescues and sets us free.**
  - **“they told everything”**—**HERDSMEN MADE MISSIONARIES BY EXPERIENCING CHRIST!**
    - **Mark 5—salvation always leads to mission;** Jesus didn’t take these men with him, he commissioned them to their community to proclaim the gospel!
  - **“They begged him to leave”**—some become missionaries and some become mockers.
- **Jesus has authority to forgive Sin (9:1-8)**
  - **v.2—“your sins are forgiven”**—What is the most distinctive thing that Christianity has to offer? **FORGIVENESS OF SIN!**
    - **v.6—forms inclusio—“Son of Man has authority on each to forgive sin.”**
  - **Point of the story—Jesus’ authority penetrates to the root of suffering...SIN!**
    - **CLIMAX**—been building miracle upon miracle to this climax of forgiving sin!
  - **Only instance in Matthew where Jesus forgives a particular individual—and he didn’t ask for it! They came asking for healing and Jesus turns it. Imagine being him, there on his mat!**
    - Forgiveness isn’t what he was looking for—he wanted healing.
    - **“take heart, my son”**—this man had experienced the height of all ostracization and Jesus looks down with words of immense tenderness and says, **“SON...don’t be afraid!”**
  - **Reminder—our ultimate need is not physical but spiritual**
    - Suffering because of personal sin—we have a spiritual need of heart transformation
    - Suffering because of broken world—we have a spiritual need for contentment and trust!
  - **This story shows that the authority Jesus has is God’s authority!**
    - Scribes are furious. Why? Only God can forgive sin!
      - Only God can command nature! Only God can command disease! Only God forgives!
      - **“blaspheming”**—Jesus’ perfection is making life unlivable for them! They cannot stand life with him! (Illustration—genius girl who ruins the grading curve...Jesus does too!!)
      - **“which is easier”**—this STUCK the scribes. neither was easier...both impossible for a mere man!
        - Jesus can do them both. If he can do one, he can do both and he’s not a blasphemer!

- “which is easier TO SAY”—to SAY, “you’re forgiven” is easier bc it can’t be verified..but Jesus says, “rise and walk,” to prove his deity and authority!
- Central message of Christianity is NOT, God will heal your diseases and make life easy! The message is God will forgive your sins forever in his Son!!
- Jesus has authority to grant Salvation (9:9-13)
  - v.9—answer’s the question...”just whose sin will Jesus forgive?”
    - Matthew’s answer—he saved me!!
  - Matthew’s salvation story—beautiful news that Jesus PURSUES SINNERS!
    - Tax collector—despicable, outcast, hated...he doesn’t go to Jesus, Jesus comes and calls him!
  - “FOLLOW ME”—Jesus SUMMONES SINNERS
    - You have to deal with Jesus personally/point blank calling you—that call demands a response! You will either follow him or stay at your booth!
  - Again, Salvation in Christ drives us to mission for Christ (9:10-13)
    - Matthew isn’t grimly, emotionlessly following Jesus now. The first thing he does is call all his buddies and throw a feast with his new Savior!
      - Reminder—there is hospitality, fellowship and food everywhere in these chapters. They are always “reclining at table”.
      - Pharisees/Scribes—ignore and condemn sinners
      - Jesus—pursues and SATISFIES SINNERS.
  - “I desire mercy and not sacrifice”—Jesus has come to change the hearts of sinners, not to prop up those enamored with self-righteous religion.
  - Question on Fasting:
    - Jesus is the groom pursuing his bride! (14-15)
      - Fasting—typically about mourning, grief and broken-heartedness
        - Jesus talks about fasting with a wedding/banquet/celebration picture.
      - Hosea 2:16, 19-20—“and in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’...and I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. and you shall know the LORD.”
        - Jesus is here saying, “The Groom is with you.” Jesus had come to betroth his people to himself forever! Therefore, it makes sense his disciples aren’t fasting. You don’t sit and grieve and mourn at a wedding! The people of God had been waiting and grieving and fasting for the coming of the Messiah and now he was there! Time to feast, not fast!
- The King’s Followers Fast Until He Returns (9:14-17)
  - Jesus is a new King
    - 2 Illustrations that detail this: unshrunk cloth and new wine—Jesus was entirely NEW!
    - Jesus wasn’t bringing an update or a revision but an entirely new way! He was seeking his bride, not from the already-righteous or the self-righteous, but the unrighteous MADE RIGHTEOUS by Him!
  - Acts 1:11—Jesus will come again, the same way he went when he ascended. Until that day, we fast and pray for his redemption and return!
    - OT—fasting for the coming of the Kingdom in mourning and grief
    - NT—fasting in hope as we look back to the finished work of Christ and ache for the 2nd coming of Christ.
  - Jesus puts this lesson on fasting right in the middle of these 9 miracles—we live in a world surrounded by disease, disaster, disability and brokenness, and in the midst of it, we are driven to fast and pray as we wait for Christ to fully assert his authority and set all things right!
  - Even with all the miracles, we know the best is yet to go and we long for that day!