

## The King's Authority Pt. 3—Authority Over Death, Disability and the Devil

- **Intro**
  - **Irony of Easter on April Fool's Day**
  - **BEST NEWS—NOT DEATH, NOT DISABILITY, NOT THE DEVIL WINS THE DAY! All the worst news comes untrue and all the best news becomes fully true in Jesus!**
- **Jesus has Authority over Death (18-26)**
  - **Story of the Ruler's Daughter**
    - Mark's account lets us know the ruler is a ruler of the synagogue—his crew hated Jesus
      - What would lead him to ask Jesus' help?—utter desperation!
    - Imagine, dads...your little girl is DEAD! This is horrific!!
    - We have a need that no-one else can meet! Bring it to Jesus who is able!
  - **Story of the Woman With The Issue of Blood**
    - Unclean. Unapproachable. Filthy. What lead her to Jesus—utter desperation!
      - **"if I only touch his garment"**—sense that she's working up her courage and in desperation just reaches out!
  - **BOTH STORIES TOGETHER**
    - Both were UNCLEAN. Both were ISOLATED. Both were INCURABLE
      - They had a need that no-one else could meet—they brought it to Jesus!
      - **Jesus touches the unclean**—**"he took her by the hand"**
      - **Jesus welcomes the isolated**—**"take heart, daughter, your faith has made you well."**
      - **Jesus heals the incurable**—**"instantly the woman was made well."**
    - **WE ARE THESE WOMEN! Hopelessly dead, unclean, isolated and incurable in sin without Jesus. These aren't just history lessons—unless Jesus shows up, we're doomed!**
      - We don't need rulers of synagogues, doctors or soothsayers...we need Jesus!
      - **Unclean**—even our righteous deeds, before a holy God, are utter filth!
      - **Isolated**—Isaiah 59:2—your iniquities have separated you from your God
      - **Incurable**—Ephesians 2:1—apart from Jesus, we are DEAD in our sin! We will also ALL DIE—we are incurable and hopeless before death if not for Jesus!
      - **IT IS NOT THE SIZE OF FAITH BUT THE OBJECT OF FAITH THAT MATTERS**
        - **It is not a miracle in PROPORTION to your faith, but a miracle IN LIGHT of faith**
          - Not 50% faith, 50% healing...It's FAITH leads to HEALING
          - These 3 people mustered up just enough faith/courage to engage Jesus.
      - Jesus shows up and EVERYTHING CHANGES
    - **Jesus stands undaunted in the face of death**
      - The people LAUGH at Jesus because of his confidence.
      - **Irony—Jesus laughs at death due to his victorious authority over it**
        - 1 Cor. 15:20-28, 50-57—But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the

saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Death = the enemy that threatens to deal the decisive blow to all hope, peace, forgiveness, salvation, etc. If death is the end, then all those things ultimately fail! However, in the resurrection DEATH DIES!
- Jesus has Authority over Disability (27-31)
  - “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” — these men were confessing Jesus as Messiah
    - Isaiah 35/40—the Messianic age was one in which the blind would see and the deaf hear —they knew if he was the Messiah, he would have mercy on them!
  - Blind men—Their EYES were blind but their hearts were seeing clearly with FAITH
    - Jews/Pharisees/Scribes—EYES saw clearly but hearts were blind!
  - “Do you believe that I am able” — we are saved by grace THROUGH FAITH
    - The channel/pipeline that grace moves through to save us is FAITH! At some point, our blindness MUST meet the grace and authority of Jesus and we lay it down and allow Jesus to transform us!
  - Why this story here?
    - Matthew driving a point that we are all hopeless, unclean, isolated and incurable. Our only hope of healing and salvation is the mercy and grace of God in Christ alone!
    - All of that grace and mercy and authority, when experienced in Christ, OPENS OUR EYES to see him as he really is.
      - No coincidence that it is BLIND men who first recognize Jesus as the Son of David— what they cannot see with their eyes, they see with their hearts!
    - These 2 guys remind me of the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus—they had a conception of Jesus, they knew him in their minds, but not their hearts. On that road, Jesus revealed his true self to them and it burned in their hearts! We are dead and blind until God, in his grace, opens our eyes to him and raises us from the dead!
  - “spread his fame through all that district” — we are compelled to engage the mission!
- Jesus has Authority over the Devil (32-34)
  - Not only does God’s grace open our eyes to SEE Jesus but it opens our MOUTH to speak of Jesus!
  - When in sin and under the influence of the devil, we speak of sin, idolatry and death—we spread the message of a kingdom of death and devastation!
  - When under the new law of grace and the Spirit, we speak of forgiveness, freedom and life —we spread the message of a kingdom of life and redemption!
  - Because death, the devil, disaster and disability are ALL DEALT WITH, we can do nothing but GO, TELL, SPEAK and SERVE in the name of the Savior who has pursued, called, satisfied, healed, and saved us!
  - 3 Responses (3 types of speaking from the people):
    - The crowds speak ABOUT Jesus—the marvel at Jesus but do NOT believe in Jesus
    - The Pharisees speak AGAINST Jesus—will always happen!
    - The recipients of the miracles speak FOR Jesus—experience grace and spread fame! Not only have they been given life and sight but PURPOSE—make him known!
- Close:
  - Sin is paid for. The tomb is empty. The throne is occupied.
  - Jesus gives the dead LIFE, the lonely a FAMILY, the blind SIGHT and the lost a PURPOSE
  - May this truth BUILD OUR FAITH
  - May this grace CHANGE OUR HEARTS
  - May this mission CONSUME OUR LIVES