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Miracles with an Unmistakable Message; Matt 9:27-34

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Introduction – By now Matthew’s purpose in chs 8-9 is abundantly clear. He stacks miracle upon miracle, and each miracle highlights another realm over which Jesus exercises complete authority. The physical realm obeys Jesus’ commands, such that He can command paralytics to walk and instantly they have new, strong legs. The natural realm obeys Jesus’ commands, such that He can command the wind and the waves to be still and instantly they cease their fury. The spiritual realm obeys Jesus’ commands, such that He can command an entire legion of demons and they have no alternative than to do His bidding. The realm of salvation is under the sovereign hand of Jesus, such that He can declare a sinner forgiven. Even the realm of death must release its grip when Jesus imparts life. Nothing and no one exists outside the realm of the sovereign authority of Christ. That’s Matthew’s point in chs 8-9. Since that is the case, Jesus is none other than the eternal, glorious Son of God, born of the virgin Mary, clothed in the weakness of our flesh, and known on the earth as Jesus of Nazareth.

So Matthew has already covered all the bases and all the realms over which Jesus holds all authority. Why then does Matthew share these two miracle accounts that occurred back to back, one right after the other? If he’s already made his point so abundantly clear, why add two more? It is because these two miracle accounts, taken together, become the proverbial icing on the cake. It’s as if Matthew is telling his readers, “If You’re not convinced yet, after miracle upon miracle upon miracle, buckle your seat belts, because these two miracles seal the deal.” If Matthew’s readers, in his day and us in our day as well, see what is communicated beyond the miracles here, there is no doubt whatsoever that Jesus is the Messiah. Let’s look at these two miracle accounts separately, and then let’s take a look at the significance of these two miracles occurring back to back.

- I. Opening Blind Eyes
 - a. Notice where the blind men place themselves and where they place Jesus.
 - i. They place themselves in need of mercy. They need mercy. They didn’t come to Jesus claiming merit or claiming rights. They don’t cry out, “Jesus, it’s not fair that we can’t see and

- others can.” They don’t presume to deserve sight. They presume that to be given sight would be a gift, a mercy.
- ii. And they place Jesus in the category of Messiah. They call him Son of David. That’s a messianic title. They know enough of Scripture to know that God promised David a son who would reign over all and have an everlasting kingdom. They haven’t seen any of Jesus’ miracles, but they have heard of them. And what they have heard is enough to convince them that Jesus is God’s Son.
 - iii. BTW – we were not eyewitnesses to the miracles of Jesus either, but we have read and we have heard – will we believe as these blind men believed? Will we place ourselves in our proper place as in need of mercy?
- b. Notice how Jesus’ question and their response reveals the genuineness and accuracy of their faith.
- i. Do you believe that I am able to do this? In other words, is your faith in Me? Or are you trusting that since you have come to Me and since you have appealed to Me that somehow you have earned something? Is your faith in your faith or is your faith in Me?
 - ii. And they said, “Yes, Lord.” Their faith is in His mercy and in His power because they believe He is Lord.
- c. V29 – according to your faith, that is, according to your complete trust and reliance on Me and My mercy and My power, since I am the object of your faith – be it done to you. And 4 blind eyes opened!
- d. Now quickly, why did Jesus warn them to do what could not be done? Word is bound to get out that they can now see and eventually they will be asked how. John 9.
- i. Why does Jesus do this on occasion? Because it’s so easy to misinterpret the miracles of Jesus. In His day, Jesus knew people would immediately conclude, if He can do this then he can overthrow Rome. Make Him king. Make Him king. But He didn’t come to overthrow Rome. He came to overthrow sin. His miracles were not a path to an earthly kingdom; His miracles were proof of His eternal kingdom.
 - ii. And even today, we often misinterpret the miracles of Jesus. They are not in the Bible to convince us that Jesus will heal our

every ailment. They are in the Bible to convince us that Jesus can heal our greatest ailment.

- e. Now let's pause for a moment and not miss the impact and force of this miracle. Opening blind eyes is something that only God can do. Optometrist can correct faulty vision; they cannot restore vision to eyes that cannot see. Once you lose your sight, you cannot get it back. That's different than paralysis. Paralysis can be aided through braces, crutches, and wheelchairs. Paralysis can even sometimes be reversed through surgery and therapy. But blindness remains blindness unless there is divine intervention to give eyes something they've never had or have lost.
 - f. So this miracle in and of itself expressly, undeniably proves the deity of Christ.
- II. Releasing a Bound Tongue
- a. This man cannot make a request of Jesus. This man cannot express any measure of faith in Jesus. This man can't talk because a demon possession has sealed his lips. He can't even come to Jesus on his own. Dark, evil forces control him. He has to be brought to Jesus much like the paralytic had to be brought earlier in ch9.
 - b. So this miracle account is not teaching us about the nature of genuine faith, that saving faith doesn't look to self in any way, but looks only to Christ as it's object. This miracle account is teaching us about grace. That God intervenes in our lives even before we are able to respond in any way. In fact, faith itself, is a response to God's grace that is already at work. Faith and repentance are responses.
 - c. Before this man could do anything or say anything by way of coming to Jesus, Jesus, in grace, moved and wrought a miracle in his life. Not only releasing his tongue but also releasing him from the darkness that held sway over his life.
 - d. That's exactly what God does for us when He moves upon us to bring us to Himself and to salvation and to life.
 - i. I'm going to quote the same verses from Ephesians that I quoted in last week's sermon to illustrate that point. Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our

trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...”

- e. And the crowds marveled – btw when God’s grace gets ahold of you and releases you from the dominion of sin and gives you life in Christ, you can’t help but marvel.
 - f. I want to go to the third point and then we’ll come back to the Pharisees’ hardened, blasphemous response.
- III. Powerful and Prophetic: Jesus’ Miracles Speak Beyond the Miracle
- a. As much as these two miracles teach us about the authority of Jesus and saving faith and God’s grace, they are also pointedly telling us something about Jesus beyond the miracles themselves.
 - b. Isaiah 35:1-6
 - c. So the miracles of Jesus in His first coming are a microcosm if you will of what he will accomplish in His second coming. In His miracles Jesus is telling us, “Look what I can do. I am the One the Father promised. And what I am doing on a small scale now on my first visit is so that you will believe in Me. Because when I return I will do this on a global scale for all my people!”
 - d. Back to back in Isaiah 35:5-6, the OT prophecies the power of God to open blind eyes and release mute tongues – and in Matthew 9, back to back, Jesus opens blind eyes and releases a mute tongue.
 - e. Matthew is so masterfully and compellingly proving to his readers – Jesus is the One – believe in Him!
 - f. Now the Pharisees, who know Isaiah 35, by their hardened, blasphemous response, actually show it is not Jesus who is in service of the prince of demons, it’s actually them.

Conclusion – My friends, I don’t know where you are today with the Lord. I don’t know if you’re playing church, could care less about church or Jesus, trying to save yourself by being good, or if you’re absolutely in love with Jesus and taken by His glory and grace. But I do know this: It can’t be any clearer than it is right here in Matthew 9:27-34. Jesus is God. He alone brings salvation, eternal life, and can make you new. Trust Him today and you’ll never be the same again!