

The Gospel of Matthew #76

Overview of Matthew 8-9: authority & compassion in action

8:1-17	3 healings	8:18-22	cost of following Jesus
8:18- 9:8	3 miracles	9:9-17	Matt called; a New Day
9:18-34	3 healings	9:35-38	summary of authority & compassion

AUTHORITY AND COMPASSION

Matthew 8:1-17

7:29 calls attention to Jesus' **authority**. Taught with authority. Now see Him **act** with authority. But see that authority always used with great compassion.

1ST 3 healings:

I. The **LEPER**

Authority: "Lord"

"If You are **willing**" (not "able")

Compassion: "I am willing. Be clean!"

Curse of leprosy: unclean! Cursed!

Jesus **touch**ed him!

(Do not tell anyone. Why: Mk 1:43-45)

II. The **CENTURION** and his **SERVANT**

Authority: "Lord" (Compassion: will go to Gentile's home)

No need. He understands **authority**

Amazing **faith** of a Gentile (Cf Magi in Mt 2)

Jesus declares who will be at the Feast of the Kingdom

III. Particular (Peter's mother-in-law) & General (**all sick & demonized**)

Authority: over fever

Over demons!

Over ALL sick: none too difficult! And compassion on all!

8:17 points to fulfillment of **Isa 53:4**

He took up our infirmities

He carried our sorrows (Isa) /diseases (Mt)

Isa 53:5 is about His substitutionary sacrifice

So healings point to the cross because sickness is a picture-result directly or indirectly of our sin.

Think of the leper. Leprosy a picture of sin.

Jews expected when Jesus touched the leper, He would become unclean.

But opposite: the leper becomes clean!

Jesus bore the leprosy/sin on the cross, paid the curse in full.

Why He rose again.

Why you clean from your sin if trust Jesus (Heb 10:19-22)

So healings are a picture of the Kingdom where no sickness

And of His atonement which makes us clean!

Lessons

1. We all are _____ and suffer from sin. Much bigger issue than our uncertain financial future!
2. Our _____ hope is Jesus, the Healer
His authority and compassion
3. We must _____ our need and come to Him
Many of you are still sick because you refuse to admit you are sick and helpless to make yourself better
4. We must have _____ that He can and will heal us

Recall 7:13-20: Narrow Way and false prophets who have a "more positive" message.

Reality and Gospel are the best message of all!