

LESSON 12: MATTHEW 8:23 - 9:34
AUGUST 6, 2008

REVIEW

- . Matthew transitions from the Lord's wisdom (Matthew 5-7), to the Lord's power (Matthew 8-9)
 - . Our Christian foundation must begin with our choosing to believe in the wisdom of the Lord (John 8: 31-41)
- . As a Jew, addressing a Jewish audience, Matthew knew Jewish faith harnessed power from the power of the law
 - . The Jew believed that only through the power of the law could one come to know the wisdom of God
- . Christ's' message was about reversing the order
 - . Only through knowing and understanding the wisdom of God, can one be released from the power of the law, so that one can come to know the power of God which will lead one to the ultimate fulfillment of the law

GOD CONFIRMS THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST'S WORDS BY THE POWER EXPRESSED IN HIS WORKS – (MATTHEW 8 – 9)

- . In Matthew 8 – 9, Matthew concentrates on Christ's power demonstrated in deeds
- . Matthew categorizes the miracles in to three areas:
 - . Christ's power over typical diseases – Matthew 8:2-15
 - . Christ's power over the unseen realm – Matthew 8:23-9:8
 - . Christ's power over death and disordered faculties – Matthew 9:18-34

CHRIST'S POWER OVER THE UNSEEN REALM – MATTHEW 8:23-9:8

- . Jesus' power over the storm – Matthew 8:23-27
 - . Facts about the Sea of Galilee
 - . Small body of water – 13 miles long by 8 miles wide
 - . Prone to violent storms due to mountains on western side of the sea
 - . Disciples address Jesus as Lord
 - . They ask and expect Him to save them
 - . The Lord rebukes them for doubting His domain over everything
 - . Jesus is Lord of nature and the invisible world of creation, as well as Lord of Humanity
 - . The storms of life strike all of us at some point or another with terrific force
 - . We are tempted to panic, fear or succumb to pressure
 - . If we receive Jesus in to our being, just as the disciples received Him in to their boat, and place Him in the center of our life, we will find peace even in the most terrible of times

- . Jesus' power over invisible demonic forces – Matthew 8:28-34, Mark 5:1-20
 - . Satan's army
 - . When Satan was banished from heaven, other fallen angels were banished with him, called demons
 - . There are over 70 references to demons in scripture
 - . Christ, himself, recognizes demons
 - . Demons, like Satan, are not omnipresent; they roam the Earth (Job 1:6-7, 2:1-2)
 - . The demons describe here manifest evil in some of its most horrific conditions
 - . Demons knew who Jesus was and feared Him – Matthew 8:29, Mark 5:6-10
 - . Christ has absolute power over these demons – Mark 5:13
 - . The attitude of Jesus in this incident
 - . Jesus did not rebuke the man but commanded the evil spirit to come out of him
 - . Jesus had total command of the situation
 - . Demons give us a foreshadowing of their eventual fate – Luke 8:31
 - . Jesus restores the mind of the man and sends him out in to the Decapolis to spread the good news
 - . The Decapolis, in gentile territory, was fertile ground for the teachings of Christ
 - . This miracle is a reminder to Christians today that we need not fear evil for Christ powers over all evil and can deliver those who all their lives have been in bondage to fear – Hebrews 2:14-15
- . The cleansing and healing of the paralytic – Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12
 - . Christ was so moved by the faith and resolve of those men that he stopped what he was doing to address their need
 - . The first thing Christ does is remove the burden from the mans heart
 - . Christ can see beyond the apparent problem and address the heart of the issue
 - . It's possible in this case that the mans burdens were causing his physical problem
 - . The teachers of the law, who witness this interaction, accuse Christ of Blaspheming
 - . Jesus, knowing their thoughts, gives them a clear demonstration of God's authority over sin and disease by immediately healing the man

CHRISTS POWER OVER DEATH AND DISORDERED FACULTIES – MATTHEW 9:18-34

- . The raising of Jairus daughter and the healing of the woman subjected to bleeding – Mark 5: 21-43, Luke 8: 40-56

- . The father of the sick child, Jairus, was an important leader of the local synagogue – Mark 5:22
 - . He was a pillar of Jewish orthodoxy and possibly one of the leaders who was against Jesus
 - . He wanted none of the Lord's leadership when things were going well, but turns to Christ in times of need
- . Christ reveals His loving heart of compassion
 - . "Whoever comes to me I will never turn away" – John 6:37
 - . When Jairus comes to Him, his reaction is to immediately respond
- . On His way to Jairus house, He heals a bleeding woman
 - . The bleeding woman had absolute faith in Jesus
 - . Jesus wasn't so busy, that he lost sight of all that was going on around Him
- . Jesus heals the blind and mute – Matthew 9: 27-34
 - . The blind men referred to Jesus as "the Son of David", showing they believed He was the Messiah
 - . Jesus challenges their faith and they stand firm
 - . Christ will test our faith to see how we respond
 - . Only through our faith can Christ heal us
 - . Jesus wanted people first to recognize Him as God's sent One who had come to meet their spiritual needs, yet also cared for our physical needs
 - . Jesus rescues the mute man from the demons thus restoring the mans voice
 - . This was an undeniable miracle that no one could doubt
 - . Yet, the onlookers were divided
 - . There were those who will remain blind to God's glory despite the most spectacular of miracles – John 10: 22-27

NEXT LESSON: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2008: MATTHEW 9:9-17, 35-38, 10:1-42