

Matt. Ch 9 Vs.18-38

Let's turn in our bibles to Matt. Ch 9. This morning we pick back up with the miraculous, the last several weeks as we've been studying the power of the king (Matthew's' gospel being the one that focuses on the Kingship of Jesus) the 1st 4 ch. Revealing his person, ch. 5-7 revealing His principals and ch. 8-9 revealing His power, we've seen so far 6 of the 10 specific miracles that Matt. gives us to illustrate His power over every conceivable area imaginable. and we've seen how Matt. applies these healings and miraculous things to the role of the messiah pointing out Jesus as the Messiah to the Jewish readers that Matt. was targeting. In Vs. 9-17 Matthew takes a short break from speaking about the miraculous side of the ministry of Jesus and interjected a little section on discipleship including his own confrontation with Jesus and how he became a disciple. And when Jesus calls people to be His disciple there is commonly 1 of 2 reactions. People either immediately forsake all and follow Jesus with total abandonment, (as did Matt. recognizing that this world has nothing but pain and emptiness to offer them and so they're willing to let go of the things of this world in order to follow Jesus.) or they hesitate, which causes a tendency for people to be unwilling to be His disciple. and as I said last week it's usually predicated on their unwillingness to give something up so that they might follow Jesus unencumbered. and we looked at a few of those possibilities last week.

They allow something to stand in the way of being totally sold out to Jesus; they're unable to grasp the eternal perspective. But remember what Jesus said in Matt 16:26 "What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

And Jesus would call people in such a way as to force them to make a decision, there was no fence straddlers and Jesus does the same thing today and maybe this morning Jesus is passing by you and you can sense Him tugging on your heart saying "follow Me." What's it going to be? Have you experienced enough heartache and discontentment yet to follow Jesus with total abandonment or are their things your really not willing to give up just yet? What would you give in exchange for your soul? Believe me it's not worth it to hang on to those things that are keeping you from walking with Jesus.

Jesus said if you try and hang on to your life you'll lose it but if you lose your life for His sake you'll find it. In other words the world doesn't revolve around you, it revolves around Jesus and until you get in sync with that and your life is in harmony with that you'll always be discontented and unsatisfied. The word sin revolves around what? (I) and as long your living for self instead of dying to self you have a life of frustration and misery to look forward to.

Matthew obviously had had enough of the things of this world and so he arose and followed Jesus. And what did he do? Was he all bummed because he knew it was right but he was saddened by the cost? No way, he thru a party, and invited all his unsaved friends to meet Jesus. He wanted all his friends to come to know this guy (Jesus) who had so radically changed his life.

When people want to know why your so different than you used to be and they want to know what's up with that ask them to let you introduce them to Jesus and they'll find out.

But if you recall, when the religious people (the Pharisees) saw Jesus identifying with sinners they freaked out, and so Jesus rebuked them and quoted to them scripture from the very prophets they claimed to esteem so highly and said you need to learn what this means.

(Read Vs 13)

He didn't come to entertain self-righteous hypocrites; He came to call people who were aware of their wretched condition and desperate need of a savior. Jesus didn't come here to play games, He came to take care of eternal buisness and bridge the gap between sinful man and a righteous God so that who so-ever would believe on Him would not perish, but have everlasting life.

So Jesus told them that He was here to establish a new work not patch up the old one because there was no way that traditional Judaism could accept the new covenant. Because Jesus' work was going to include both Jew and gentile alike. and That would've split traditional Judaism right in ½ Because as far as the Jew was concerned the gentile was unclean so there was no way they could accept oneness in Christ. As it says in Gal 3:28 *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* and so in Vs. 18it says

Vs18

Now according to Mark and Luke's gospel the rulers name was Jairus and he was a ruler of the synagogue there in the city where they were at. So again what does that automatically tell us about Jairus? It tells us #1 that he would've been a very prestigious man, a man of power, a wealthy man, a man of influence, and the fact that he's coming now to Jesus would probably mean he was a very desperate man. Because at this time the Pharisees and various people in official positions were coming to regard Jesus as a dangerous heretic. So by his coming to Jesus he was jeopardizing his position and so he probably has exhausted all of his other resource or avenue of help and nothing else has worked and so he comes to Jesus.

He humbles himself before the Lord and pleads for his help, Lukes gospel tells us that he fell down at the feet of Jesus; here Matt tells us he worshipped Him. And as I've said before desperate circumstances call for desperate measures and pride can no longer be an issue. And I find in this a principal or something that's very common unfortunately, and that's this: after people have exhausted every other resource and they find themselves in a desperate situation and they're so at the end of themselves that pride is no longer an issue, then they'll come to Jesus and humble themselves before Him. When they get to that point that their lives are spinning out of control and they've tried this and they've tried that, they've tried to deal with it on their own, they've tried to talk to the psychiatrist at a \$120 an hour and nothing is helping and I'm going to die if something doesn't change in my life. Nothing satisfies and everything I stuff in that void in my heart only seems to make it bigger. It's like a temporary fix to a permanent problem and I'm losing control.

That's where we find Jairus he's tried it all and nothings worked, only in this case it's not for Him it's for his daughter, again we see him interceding for her. And approaching the Lord on the behalf of someone he loves. And Luke tells us this was his only daughter, and he says here (finish Vs 1)

This could also be understood "My daughter is at the point of death" or it could be that Matt has simply summarized the account as to where Mark and Luke are more concerned with the details. Because both Mark and Luke tell us that when he approached Jesus that his plea was that she was at the point of death and needed Jesus to come and touch her. Either way the emphasis remains that this ruler sought out Jesus and it becomes quickly evident that a resurrection was in need. And when Jairus came face to face with death he knew who to turn to and the same is true for many today, when confronted with death they turn to Jesus.

Let's not overlook or bypass the tremendous faith of Jairus either, when all else failed he knew where he could turn and we see him placing all of the hope and faith he could muster up in Jesus Christ and so Jesus honors that and as a result does a radical work. Notice he doesn't doubt the Lords ability to do the work. He says lay your hand on her and she *will* live. But his faith pales somewhat in comparison to that of the centurion because if you remember right he didn't even ask Jesus to come to his house. He knew that all Jesus had to do was speak the word and his servant would be healed as to where this man requests that Jesus come with him to his house.

Vs19-22

Lets turn over to Marks account and take a little closer look at this scenario (Mark ch. 5 vs. 21-36)

Vs 26

Now I'm not sure that's it's necessary to spell it out any clearer but this is in regards to the flow of blood that women are supposed to experience only once a month for a few days to a week or somewhere in that general time period. But this had going on for her for the last 12 years, and it seems to allude to a non-stop dilemma that she was suffering with.

And Luke gives us 1 more contrast in this event that Matt leaves out and Mark says later. Jairus' daughter was 12 years old. Now I don't want to over spiritualize anything or read into something that isn't there. But it's interesting to me that both cases simultaneously dealt with a 12yr. period of time, 1 of a 12yr. old girl who was full of life and laughter and light, who now has darkness closing in on her, and the other who for the last 12yrs. has lived in darkness and depression and disease who's getting ready to experience the light of life as she receives a healing. She to has exhausted all of her resources and only gotten worse.

Vs.27-28

Now this is more than likely in reference to the tassels that they were to attach to the outer garments and I would refer you to Num. 15:37-39 for that.

Vs29-30

Don't think that Jesus didn't know who touched Him, He's seeking to draw this woman out of the crowd so that she might confess her situation and testify not only to the glory of the power of God, but also so that she might be restored to society. Her predicament made her ceremonially unclean according to Lev. 15:25 which means she had virtually no social life either and so if it was a known fact that she was healed she could enter back into a normal life.

Vs.31

Luke tells us it was Peter who said this, Gosh Lord there's 100's if not 1000's of people around and your asking who touched You? But notice that Jesus was immediately able to discern the difference between multitudes of people hap hazardly bumping into Him and a direct outreach of faith.

Vs32-33

Fearing maybe because she knew that to touch someone on her condition would defile them and not wanting to be exposed in what she did, but like the leper she was no longer unclean as soon as she touched Jesus.

Vs34

1 more interesting point here and then we'll move on. Both Jairus and this woman, though they were 2 opposite people they both met at the feet of Jesus. Jairus was prestigious and powerful, and wealthy. She was anonymous with no prestige or money. He was a synagogue leader, while her condition kept her from public worship, his daughter had been healthy for 12yrs and then died, she had been ill for 12yrs and was now made whole. But they both found common ground at the feet of Jesus...And it was their faith that Jesus responded to, she wasn't healed because she touched His garment, Jesus was sure to clarify that. She was healed because she had faith that Jesus could do it.

Now that contact with Jesus no doubt acted as the releasing point of her faith, even as we often times need something to aid us in the release of our faith. The laying on of the hands of the elders, there's nothing magical in that act in and of it's self. But it can help us in the releasing of our faith. You know "If the elders would lay hands in me and pray I know that God would touch me." The hands of the elders do nothing for you physically, but it can be that focal point needed to assist us in the releasing of our faith. Same basic thing here, and though her faith seemed somewhat mixed with superstition Jesus didn't rebuke her for that He received her just as she was.

Jesus doesn't rebuke us for our off the wall concepts either. Now He'll steer us into the proper perspective just as He did with her. He let her know exactly what healed her it was her faith, not the hem of His garment. But He receives us just as we are.

Vs35-37

Now lets turn back to Matt ch 9 Vs23

Vs23

In that culture the funeral was carried out almost immediately following the death. and So by the time Jesus had reached the house they had already started the procession and again in this particular culture they would hire professional flute players and mourners to come in and lament and make a big scene over this tragic loss. So all these people were already on the scene by the time Jesus got there, for all we know they were on stand by just incase and since Jairus was rich there was probably a bunch of people all crowded around.

Vs 24

Or your bible might say laughed to scorn or something similar to that. The point being they ridiculed Him and scoffed at Him as if to say man you must think we're totally stupid, either that or your totally clueless because the girl is dead.

So they mocked Him, which shows their sincerity in their mourning. One minute their weeping and wailing the next minute they're all laughing. But all they were doing was displaying their own ignorance because Jesus was going to raise this girl up as though she *was* merely sleeping, He said the same basic thing concerning Lazarus in John 11:11. He wasn't denying or arguing the reality of her death, He was arguing the *finality* of her death. and The other accounts of this event tell us that He got rid of those who mocked. And whenever Jesus wants to do a work in your life there will always be those who mock, or those little voices of unbelief and demonic overtones that seek to ridicule the fact that Jesus could remedy your circumstance.

My advice to you is to put out the mockers, physically sever your ties with those who mock the work of God in your life. and Ask Jesus to take care of any of the powers and principalities that are seeking to subject you to doubt, Jesus promised Jairus that his daughter would be made well. And the bible is filled with literally thousands of promises that you can stand on. Promises of peace that surpasses all understanding, of deliverance and freedom from sin, assurance that He will never leave nor forsake us and Jesus would say to us just as He did to Jairus "don't be afraid, only believe"

Vs25-26

The other 2 accounts tell us that He spoke to her and said "talitha cumi" which means "little girl I say to you, arise" Now we know that Jesus had no specific pattern when it came to healings. But when He raised someone from the dead (we know of 3 accounts) He did it the same everytime. He spoke directly to that person, and we see here the word of God giving life to the dead. Jesus being the living word. And Jesus is still in the business of giving life to the dead. Turn quickly to Eph. Ch 2(vs1-10) Col 2:13 *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses"*

Vs27-28

So they implore Him using a messianic title but He seems to ignore them at 1st, many believe because of the political ramifications it may've had. But as soon as they come into the house He turns to them and notice He doesn't ask what they want from Him, He just says (repeat)

Vs 29

So we see a tremendous emphasis on faith in this last section of Matt ch 9, Now one thing we want to make mention of here Jesus didn't emphasize their amount of faith but simply the fact that they had any. He responded to the fact that they had faith not the amount of faith they had.

Vs 30

Jesus never placed focus in the miraculous the emphasis is the message, (of repentance) not the gifts but the giver.

Vs 31

So they excelled in their belief in Jesus but failed in their obedience. How true is that. They didn't supplement the same deep conviction that Jesus could give them sight with an equally deep resolve to do His will. A couple of quick observations and we'll finish out the ch.

#1 we notice that the Pharisees and teachers of the Scriptures couldn't see who Jesus was. They called Him Teacher, while these blind men could see perfectly who Jesus was, calling Him Son of David (which was a Messianic title) so who was truly blind.

#2 There are no miracles recorded in the OT of the giving of sight, nor is there in the new after the Gospels (we see Sauls sight restored but that's really not of the same order.) But in the ministry of Jesus there are more miracles of the giving of sight than of any other single category. The giving of sight is a divine activity (Ex. 4:11, psalm 146:8) and had definite messianic significance. And even as Jesus is still into giving life to the dead, He still gives sight to the blind, and every believer here can testify to those 2 things.

Vs32-34

Notice again the fact that people brought this man in need of Jesus to Him. They were engaged in literal intercession, the bible drips with passages concerning the ministry of intercession in some form or another either through prayer or people literally bringing people before Jesus. In either case the point is the some people caring enough about others to bring them before the Lord that He might touch their lives or heal their condition or open their eyes or give them new life. Where is your burden? Are you an active part in the ministry of intercessory prayer? Because I know that you know people who need Jesus to touch their lives in some way or another. Don't grow complacent in your own salvation, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. You may not be the best articulator of the word but you can sure pray. Don't be guilty of the sin of prayerlessness.

Notice what they say in Vs 34 (read)

So they didn't deny the fact of the miraculous, they just say that His power is satanic, and so they're actually blaspheming the Lord. And for the 1st time we see the Pharisees actually verbalizing their hostility toward Jesus

Vs 35

So the ministry of Jesus consisted primarily of teaching and preaching and the healings confirming the authority of His teaching.

Vs36-38

So as Jesus is just ministering He looks upon the people and is moved with compassion and this word compassion speaks of being stirred way down deep from where the root of emotion springs. So He was deeply moved, why? Because of all the sickness and disease? No. Those things were just symptoms of a much deeper issue that finds its roots in sin. He saw a much deeper need that the people had than physical healing. They needed a spiritual healing.

The Pharisees looked on the common people as chaff to be destroyed and burned, Jesus saw them as a harvest to be reaped and saved. They were ripe for salvation but they needed to be plucked, and there was no one to do the work. and The scenario is identical today. So many people ripe for the harvest and so few people out their with the sickle of Gods word bringing in the harvest and as a result much of the harvest is lost. So what can we do about it? Jesus says pray. (Repeat Vs 38) As I've said before, we can do more than pray, but we can't do anything until we've prayed. So chapters 8-9 showing us the power of the King over every conceivable area imaginable.

Are you guys ready for your Pop Quiz?The 10 specific miracles of Jesus as sighted by Matt in ch 8-9 are what?

- #1 The cleansing of the leper.
- #2 The healing of the centurions servant.
- #3 Peters m/in-law healed.
- #4 The calming of the storm.
- #5 2 demon possessed men delivered.
- #6 The healing of the paralytic.
- #7 The woman with the issue of blood healed.
- #8 Jairus' daughter raised from the dead.
- #9 2 blind men given sight
- #10 The demon possessed mute delivered and healed.

In those 10 miracles we see the power of Jesus over incurable disease and, His ability to heal not being physically present, His power over nature, His power over the supernatural, and His power over life and death itself.