

The Gospel of Matthew

Title: Jesus' Power Over Death, Illness, Blindness And Muteness

Text: Matthew 9:18-33

POINT 1 - JESUS' POWER OVER DEATH (Vs. 18-20; 23-26)

Romans 5:12 sums up the curse, **"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."** There is no vaccine for this. There is no medication to prevent death. It may be prolonged by treatment, but apart from the Lord returning, all men will die. Romans 6:23, **"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** Paul asks the question concerning the sin of the flesh and the world, **"Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?"** (Romans 7:24).

It has been said that the only two things that are for sure are "death and taxes." But I disagree, some people don't pay taxes, but death is guaranteed, Hebrews 9:27 **"And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment."** Judgment and death will come to all. The judgment of God was administered in the Garden of Eden, Genesis 3:19, **"For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."** Job understood this, **"Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there"** (Job 1:21).

The Synagogue Official came to Jesus. It appears he came into the house of Matthew where Jesus was. Defined this was "a Jew and a man of considerable influence in the lives of the people." It is suspected he was a "chief ruler" as well. His plea was that his daughter had died. The curse of sin is death. It affects everyone of us in one way or another. But one day this curse will be destroyed, Revelation 21:3-4 **"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."**

→ See Mark 5
She was dead, not in a coma. The funeral mourners had gathered already. And the number was large since he was a high ranking official. The crowd mocked Jesus. Some commentators think they weren't mocking Jesus because of who He was, but because they thought he arrived too late. They may have believed in His healings, but death, that was too far gone. They assumed He would make a fool of Himself. But Jesus simply took her by the hand and she got up. He proved His power over death. He proved His power over sin. The funeral now turned into a celebration. The news spread, now with fever pitch, He raises the dead.

→ See Job 38
APPLICATION: Sometimes we think God is limited. He can heal, but the raising of dead body, no one can do that. Many of us are like Martha when her brother Lazarus died, **"Martha then said to Jesus, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died"** (John 11:21). When Jesus said her brother would rise again, she responded with the right doctrine of the resurrection of the

The Gospel of Matthew

dead, “**I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day**” (John 11:24). Later Mary came weeping and said the same that **if Jesus had only been there**. When Jesus came to the tomb and told them to remove it, Martha said “he stinks” *emphasis added*. John 11:43-44, “**Lazarus, come forth. The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, Unbind him, and let him go.**”

Jesus has defeated death. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, “**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.”

Application: Sometimes it's a deep need that brings one to Christ, Jarius had likely heard, seen all the life threatening miracles Jesus did, but now he asks for a resurrection.

POINT 2 - THE MIRACLE OF THE MEDICAL ISSUE (Vs. 20-21)

A woman who was suffering from constant bleeding for twelve years, was literally at the end of her rope. **You can relate in some way.** A **constant illness** or **suffering**. Mark 5 describes this account this way, “**and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse.**” Just think for a moment, an illness that doctors can't fix or help. **Imagine now in the culture of the time, the outcast, the suffering, the shame that came with this.** This woman was at the **bottom** of the **barrel**. **Sometimes when we are at the bottom all we have left is too look up.**

All she wanted to do was touch His garment. She didn't want a **conversation**, she didn't want to **ask** a **question**, she knew that if she could **just touch Him**, she would be healed. Like the leper, she was unclean, but Jesus makes the unclean, clean. There's no sin or shame that will keep you from repenting and believing Jesus can make you whole. And the response of Jesus, “**your faith has made you well, and at once the woman was made whole.**”

Application: She was penniless, an outcast, not allowed in the synagogue and everything she touched would be rendered unclean. There are two things that bring men and women to Christ, a **deep need** and **faith**. They both contained both of these.

THE MIRACLE OF SIGHT (Vs. 27-31)

Blindness was a prevalent disease of the day. These two men followed Him, maybe by the noise of the crowd or some sense of direction, they obviously didn't know where He was, that's why they were “crying out.” The **Greek word** for **crying out** means “shouting or screaming with great intensity.” It's used in Revelation 12:2, “**and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.**”

The Gospel of Matthew

They wanted to be heard over the crowd. They knew Jesus was their only hope to be delivered from their afflictions and suffering. A couple things we can note about this text. They had the right knowledge about Jesus. The very fact they addressed Jesus as the Son of God indicates they acknowledged Him as the Messiah. Both OT and NT give ample evidence of Jesus being the Messiah. And when people heard this phrase, it was a clear confession of His Messiahship.

They had the right attitude toward Jesus. They pleaded for mercy. Although we cannot be dogmatic about this, but we can assume they wanted spiritual help too. The greatest need today isn't your physical healing, it's your spiritual healing. I wonder if they were familiar with Joel 2:13, **"And rend your heart and not your garments. Now return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness, And relenting of evil."**

I believe the text reveals they came to Him with an understanding of their own unworthiness. Again, we keep going back to the tax collector in Luke 18, **"God, be merciful to me, the sinner."** Today, it's your spiritual state you should be concerned with.

The question Jesus asked was a bit odd. He knew their faith, He knew their persistence in following Him. Think about it, a blind man following someone? Not all healings mention a person's faith. But in this case, there seems to be a message here about a public proclamation of who Jesus is. His question prompted their response, **"Yes, Lord."** They confessed, and they believed. They had not only their physical eyes opened, but it seems their spiritual sight was opened. Isaiah prophesied to the people, **"Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand. Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed"** (Isaiah 9:9-10).

The question of disobedience arises as they went and spread the news. Why Jesus asked this remains a matter of interpretation. But, if you were blind and now could see, it would be hard to remain quiet. I'm not excusing their disobedience at all. But it further proves my point they were spiritually cleansed as well.

CONCLUSION

First, because of Jesus' victory over death, we have victory. There's no sting to death, it's merely a gateway to the Father. The synagogue official believed He could raise the dead. We must believe in the resurrection and the life of Jesus, for He is the resurrection and the life.

Second, our persistence in believing Jesus for our needs. You may have spend all you have, and yet, you know Jesus is passing by. Reach to Him. Plead for Him. He will make you whole.

The Gospel of Matthew

Third, as you begin to realize your sinful condition, your blindness, call upon the Lord while He is near. Call upon Him while He may be found. Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me, I once was lost, but now I'm found, blind but now I see.