

THE MESSIAH'S AUTHORITY

THE MESSIAH'S MISSION [MATTHEW, PART 4] · MATTHEW 8:23-9:8 · MAY 23, 2021 · PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

SERMON OUTLINE:

"When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man." (Matthew 9:8)

Who is this? (8:27)

- The basic question about Jesus
- Our need to answer it for ourselves

Jesus: The One with Authority Over Nature (Matthew 8:23-27)

- Miracle on the water
- "Even the winds and the waves obey him!" (8:27)

Jesus: The One with Authority Over Demonic Spirits (Matthew 8:28-34)

- Miracle on the far side of the lake in the Gentile lands
- "They shouted, 'Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?'" (8:29)

Jesus: The One with Authority to Forgive Sins (Matthew 9:1-8)

- Miracle back home in Capernaum
- "They were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man" (9:8)

Getting into Jesus' Boat

- Following Jesus into the boat (8:23)
- Calling to Jesus amid the storms of life (8:24-25)
- Encountering Jesus' authority and power (8:26)
- Growing with Jesus from little faith to greater faith (8:26-27)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the most famous person you have ever met? What was it like to encounter someone so renowned?
2. This week we continue our series, "The Messiah's Mission," by looking at two potential disciples approaching Jesus about following Him in Matthew 8:23-9:8. Begin your study in prayer by asking God to speak to you through His Word and then, whether you are alone or with a group, read that passage aloud.
3. This passage contains three episodes that all reveal the authority of Jesus. What is the situation of the disciples in the first episode, according to 8:23-25?
4. What is it about Jesus that reveals His authority to them in verses 26-27?
5. The second episode happens on the other side of the shore. What is the situation that Jesus finds Himself encountering in 8:28-29?
6. When Jesus sends this demonic host into the pigs (8:30-33), what is the neighboring townspeople's response (8:34)? Why do you think this was their response?
7. The third episode happens after Jesus returns to Capernaum. What is the situation that arises according to 9:1-3?
8. What is the issue of conflict and what do we learn about Jesus' authority in 9:4-7?
9. Stepping back, what does each episode tell us that Jesus has authority over? Bringing this together with the crowds' response after the Sermon on the Mount (7:28-29), what sort of picture is Matthew offering us about Jesus?
10. What is one thing God is speaking to you through this study? If you're on your own, write that down and pray over that this week. If you are with a small group, share your answers with one another before closing in prayer.

DIGGING DEEPER:

This week dig deeper into Jesus' teaching on our response to Him in one or more of the following ways:

- Consider memorizing Matthew 9:5-6 this week.
- In order to reflect more deeply on them, select one or more of the episodes of Matthew 8:23-9:8 to sketch, ink, or paint. As you do that, prayerfully reflect on the power and authority of Jesus in general but also in your own life.
- Watch "The Messiah" theme video from The Bible Project: bibleproject.com/explore/video/messiah/
- In order to dig deeper into the calling of discipleship consider reading either Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* or Os Guinness' *The Call*.