

Sermon Outline

“Jesus Christ, Compassionate Lord,” Matthew: The Life and Words of Jesus, Part 29 – Matthew 9:18-34 – Robin Boisvert – February 24, 2013

Introduction

1. “The sermon (on the mount) provides Jesus’ clearest teachings about the coming kingdom of heaven, and chapters 8-9 provide several examples of Jesus’ compassionate healing ministry... These examples are just as much about the kingdom as the sermon is, for healings are pictures of God’s restorative kingdom.” (Jonathan Pennington)
2. This narrative portion of the gospel opens our eyes to see how Jesus brings the power of the kingdom of heaven to bear on the heartache of human suffering in this fallen world. These miracles attest to the reality that Jesus is the Messiah who is faithful to his mission.

Miracles demonstrate Jesus’ authority

1. The first narrative demonstrates that Jesus is Lord over death. This shows Jesus authority over our oldest and greatest problems – sin and death (Romans 5:12-21). He had power over death because he would destroy death by dying.
2. On the way to synagogue official’s home, Jesus stopped for the women with the flow of blood. He always walked in his Father’s will. He was faithful to his mission.
3. In the next two brief narratives Jesus heals two blind men and expels a demon from a mute man, demonstrating his power and authenticating his identity as the Messiah.

Miracles demonstrate Jesus’ compassion and the importance of faith

1. These stories show the compassion of Jesus. Each person in this story comes to Jesus seeking help, and he responds.
2. These stories also demonstrate the importance of faith. Faith, however, is not in itself the important thing. It is *faith in Christ*. It is not the quality of the faith, but the quality of faith’s object that matters. People who call out to Jesus with weak faith receive help just as much as those who come to him with strong faith (Matthew 8:5-10 and Matthew 8:23-27).
3. What about the times that Jesus doesn’t answer the way we would like? We need to remember that the miracles of Jesus are signs which point to a much greater healing to come. They point to the resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of all those who are in Christ. For those in Jesus, full redemption is coming. In the meantime, we are called to trust God even in the face of difficulty and unanswered questions. Such faith is precious in the sight of God.

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4. We have warrant to pray and ask God for anything. He encourages us to pray (Luke 11:1-13). But God may have reasons not to grant what we ask when we ask. Will we still trust him?

Conclusion

1. God knows and cares about where we are. He is pleased when we trust him, especially when we can't see through the gloom.
2. Take heart, Christian! God is going to make all things new (Revelation 21).

Fellowship Starters

1. Take time as a Care Group to read Matthew 9:18-34.
2. Reread Pennington's quote in the introduction. How do the miracles of Jesus relate to the kingdom of heaven?
3. What do these stories tell us about the character of Jesus?
4. What role does faith play in these stories? Robin showed us from this passage that the quality of the quality of faith is not as important as faith's object. Why is this?
5. Like the characters in this story, are you bringing your troubles to Christ? Do you believe that he is able and willing to help?
6. What do you do when he doesn't answer your prayers in your timing? Are you continuing to trust him?