

Matthew 9:1-13: The Authority of Jesus

Matthew 9:1-8 Getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over *the sea* and came to His own city. ² And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.” ³ And some of the scribes said to themselves, “This *fellow* blasphemes.” ⁴ And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? ⁵ Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, and walk’? ⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—then He *said* to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.” ⁷ And he got up and went home. ⁸ But when the crowds saw *this*, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Authority is the responsibility and the right to command within a particular domain. Authority, properly applied, leads to peace and joy.

Authority is not determined by claims we make to power, but by what we ACTUALLY HAVE POWER OVER- what obeys us.

If I claim to have authority over something and it does not obey me, then either I do not have authority over it or it is not submitted to my authority.

Sons of Sceva, Parable of 2 sons and the vineyard, your dog vs. my dog, sheep hear and follow

The people marveled at the authority the Father had given to Jesus. He overruled the Pharisees, sickness, and sin!

Authority also means we uniquely impact those under our authority (i.e. give authority, blessings, commands, do harm).

John 17:1-2 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.

When all authority structures are in place and functioning (leadership and submission), there is peace and order.

What causes authority to break down?

James 3:16 ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

Jesus was given all authority, and He, in turn, shares His ultimate authority with us. In His name, we have the privilege of declaring the things that have been FINISHED in Christ.

John 20:21-23 ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said* to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained.”

Parallel: Whatever you bind/loose on earth, shall have been bound/loosed in heaven

Acts 13:38-39 ³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹ and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

John 9:40-41 ⁴⁰ Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

We have the authority in Christ to tell people that their sins are taken away or that their sins remain!

John 3:36 ³⁶ He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Matthew 9:9-13 ⁹ As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He *said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him. ¹⁰ Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining *at the table* in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "*It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Follow me as I follow Christ...

We have the authority to call spiritually sick to the great physician! He came for them and left us the command to call!

Hospitality evangelism...

We tend to think in terms of persuasiveness or depth of relationship: "Can I convince them to come?" -or- "Do we know each other well enough for me to extend this invitation?"

Jesus would have us think in terms of authority. Call sinners to the Jesus they need in the authority He has given us!

Jesus always gets His man!