

Jesus is King: Jesus Has Authority Over Sin – Week 7

HOOK

The Touch of the Master's Hand by Myra Brooks Welch

Well it was battered and scared, and the auctioneer felt it was hardly worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin, but he held it up with a smile.

“Well it sure ain't much but it's all we got left. I guess we ought to sell it too.

Oh, now who'll start the bid on this old violin? Just one more and we'll be through.”

And then he cried,

“One, give me one dollar. Who'll make it two? Only two dollars, who'll make it three?

Three dollars, twice, now that's a good price. Now who's gonna bid for me?

Raise up your hand now. Don't wait any longer. The auctions about to end.

Who's got four? Just one dollar more to bid on this old violin?”

Well the air was hot, and the people stood around as the sun was setting low.

From the back of the crowd, a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow.

He wiped the dust from the old violin, then he tightened up the strings.

Then he played out a melody pure and sweet, sweeter than the angels sing.

Then the music stopped, and the auctioneer with a voice that was quiet and low,

he said, “Now what will you bid for this old violin, and he held it up with a bow?”

And then he cried out,

“One, give me one thousand. Who'll make it two? Only two thousand, who'll make it three?

Three thousand, twice, you know that's a good price. Common who's gonna bid for me?”

And the people cried out what made the change? We don't understand.

Then the auctioneer stopped, and he said with a smile, “It was the touch of the Master's hand.”

- There is more to Jesus than meets the eye. ([John 1:14](#) – He's God in flesh.)
- But, Jesus sees more in His people than meets the eye too. ([John 2:25](#))

INTRO

Matthew opened His gospel presenting to us His three major themes the rest of the book points to. **1)** Jesus is the King who surpasses David **2)** Jesus came to break the curse of sin & death. **3)** He offers redemption to anyone, especially the unlikely. Only God can take a heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh.

Matthew is presenting Jesus as not just king over a country, or even over the world, but over every realm of existence. **So far:**

- The King has been born (Genealogy, visited by state diplomats, echoes David).
- The King has been declared (John the Baptist as the forerunner)
- The King has been anointed (Baptism and the Holy Spirit).
- The King has delivered His law (The sermon on the mount).
- **The King will now exercise His authority.**

BOOK

Matthew 8:27 – (Jesus has rebuked the storm.) *And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”*

- This is the first in a series of stories which Matthew has compiled together where Jesus shows His power over every realm of existence.

LOOK

Authority Over Nature (**Matthew 8:23-27**)

A powerful storm was rushing in from the North down the Jordan Valley and being forced between the gorge that opens up onto the Sea of Galilee. This bottlenecking only multiplies its intensity and whipped the water’s surface into a boiling froth. The waves weren’t just battering the boat. They were covering it and violently battering the men trying to drag them from the boat into the unforgiving water. At any moment, the boat, alone in the middle of the sea, could be capsized or crushed leaving the men hopelessly treading water for a few last minutes until their strength gives out and they’re buried in the blackness below.

It was when their courage had totally abandoned them and every attempt at saving themselves had failed that they, in a panic, woke Jesus.

Matthew 8:25 – *And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.”*

Psalms 107:28-30 – *Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress. 29 He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. 30 Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and He brought them to their desired haven. 31 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man!*

- Only YHWH, the Creator, has power over nature.

Matthew 8:26-27 – *And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”*

- There’s something going on here that’s more than what meets the eye. The turmoil of the storm around them – nature itself - has been touched by the Master’s hand.

What is Matthew teaching us? King Jesus has authority over the natural elements.

- **Why?** Because He IS YHWH, King over creation and its laws.

Authority Over the Spiritual Realm (Yes, Even the Enemy!) (**Matthew 8:23-27**)

The very next thing that happens is Jesus is confronted by two demon possessed men. They had been living among the tombs with the dead. They attacked anyone who got close to that area, and no one could overcome them because the demonic spirits tormenting them also operated in supernatural strength. The gospel of Mark says they had been bound with chains and shackles on multiple occasions but had pulled the chains apart and broken the shackles in pieces. Also, that as many as 2,000 demons were at work.

Man has no power in the spiritual realm. Our strength is confined to the physical. What we can see, hear, and do is limited to the natural world. But when Jesus came into the area, there was an invasion into **THEIR** realm.

Matthew 8:29 - *And behold, they cried out, "What have You to do with us, O Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"*

Jesus hasn't spoken a word, yet they are overpowered by His very presence. The puppet strings they held to these men were ripped from their hands. They're terrified and cornered with nowhere to go but to be tormented in hell itself. So, with all their strength being useless, with their influence in these men and in this region abruptly cut off, they beg... the mighty legions of demons beg at the feet of Jesus. They plead with Him to be sent into a herd of pigs instead of facing their final judgment. Jesus speaks only a single word in this encounter, "Go." At that, they possess a herd of pigs which race into the sea and drown.

- There's something going on here that's more than meets the eye. The spiritual turmoil, the demons themselves, have been exorcised by the Master's hand.

What is Matthew teaching us? King Jesus has authority over incorporeal beings.

- But not just those who are on His "side," but over His enemy.
- **Why?** Because He IS YHWH, King over the spiritual realm and its inhabitants.

Matthew has clustered these stories on purpose. He's communicating to us, the reader, how King Jesus showed His authority over every dimension of existence. There are two more, but we'll spend the most time studying this next one.

Authority Over the Human Heart

Immediately after His encounter with the demon possessed men, Matthew fast-forwards us to a healing story. But we've seen Jesus heal people already.

What's he trying to show us this time?

Matthew 9:2-3 - *And behold, some people brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, My son; your sins are forgiven." 3 And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This Man is blaspheming."*

- Paralytic – His legs were paralyzed, so he couldn't walk.

Instead of healing his legs, Jesus tells him his sins are forgiven. It's not recorded if there were specific sins this man was anguished by, but Jesus does nothing without insight and compassion. Whatever was going on inside him, Jesus' words hit him like cool water to someone dying of thirst. At the word of Jesus, his heart was changed inside of him and with it came incredible relief.

The scribes, those hypocrites who knew God's word immediately took offense.

Why did they accuse Jesus of blaspheming? Because only God can forgive sins.

Up until now, God's forgiveness has been tied to breeding spotless animals, traveling long distances to the temple, slaughtering them, having them sacrificed by the priests with special prayers. Forgiveness has been rituals, blood, incense, smoke, and mediators. **And Jesus, putting Himself in the place of God, supposedly forgives him with a few words.** Who does He think He is? (First of all, He can read minds...)

Matthew 9:4-5 – *But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?"*

- There's no immediate outward sign of sin or holiness.
- To them, producing a miracle that can be seen and proven is the harder thing to do. So, He puts out a challenge.

Matthew 9:6-8 - *But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." 7 And he rose and went home. 8 When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.*

- His physical healing is being used as evidence to a greater truth.
- His heart is a dimension only God has access to: **Only God can peer at an individual's heart and transform what He finds there.**
- There's something going on here that's more than meets the eye. His spiritual paralysis – a heart racked with sin and rebellion - has been purified by the Master's hand.

What is Matthew teaching us? King Jesus has authority over sin.

- **Why?** Because He IS YHWH, King over the hearts of mankind.

This is incredibly important to the author, Matthew. **Who was Matthew?**

He was a tax collector, a Jew who had gotten friendly with Rome, the enemy. Rome gave him permission to demand more money from people than Rome required and pocket the difference. He would have been cold-hearted for serving the oppressive government, ostracized religiously for cooperating with pagans, and hated for his exploitation of his own people. If there was someone who needed forgiveness...

And it's here, with Jesus' words still hanging in the air for us, that Matthew inserts his own testimony. It's low-key, but it serves an important purpose.

Matthew's Testimony

Matthew 9:10 - *As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.*

- No words of discussion. No questions about income or financial security. Just an immediate response of "Yes," to the command of Jesus.

Look how Matthew has arranged it!

The point: Jesus has authority over sin and the human heart. Only He can transform it from cold, hard stone into soft, responsive flesh.

The example: Matthew, himself.

Matthew was hated, and perhaps rightfully so. He was a traitor to his own people because of his greed. Few were less deserving of forgiveness, but there was a call on his life which no one could see but the King of a man or woman's heart.

He uses himself as the object lesson of Jesus' most controversial statement so far.

- “Do you know how I know Jesus has authority over sin? Ya, He healed the lame guy. But the greatest evidence I can give you, reader, is the evidence I am MOST sure of. And it’s that King Jesus took away MY sin.” – Matthew
- At a word, Matthew was changed, touched by the Master’s hand.

Then Matthew gives a **clear description of Jesus’ ministry**. As soon as Matthew says he followed Jesus, we are transported to a dinner at his house. Having a meal in honor of Jesus was Matthew’s way of professing Jesus publicly AND evangelizing his friends.

But, always hovering around Jesus like mosquitoes were the scribes and Pharisees, who tried to use this dinner to disqualify Jesus’ ministry. But Jesus turned their argument around on them.

Matthew 9:11-13 - *And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12 But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

- In fact, God’s heart was never towards those who were proud of their own righteous acts. His heart was always toward those sick with sin who everyone else overlooked as being too far gone.
- We haven’t left Matthew’s testimony yet. He’s presenting himself as the one who was healed. “Only God could heal my terminally ill heart.” – Matthew

1) Jesus is King. 2) Jesus came to break the curse of sin and death. 3) Jesus offers redemption to anyone, especially the unlikely.

Then after an argument between Jesus and the Pharisees that He is doing something new which doesn’t fit their paradigm, Matthew gives us a fourth realm which His power extends to. He raises a little girl from the dead. He is King Jesus with authority over nature, the spiritual realm, over the heart, **& over death itself**.

TOOK

Authority to Over Our Hearts

Many of our hearts aren’t as pretty as we want them to be. They are nicked and dusty and warped like that old violin.

The truth is they are ugly because of our selfish, self-worshipping rebellion. We've taken a heart meant to embrace a holy, loving God and embraced idols for our own pleasure and self-fulfillment. We've abused it.

1. Some are content with, even want their sin. "It's my life. It's my heart."
 - You are painfully mistaken, but you may not be reached by this message.
 - **2 Cor. 4** says the god of this world has blinded you so you can't see your need for Christ.
2. Some try to ignore the fact their heart is filthy and out of tune because they don't know what to do about it. So, it's easier to ignore it.
 - May the truth of the gospel reveal hope to you. His name is Jesus.
 - He doesn't heal those who are proud, self-righteous, or unrepentant.
 - The Pharisees He's was confronting were JUST as sick and needing a Physician as Matthew's friends, but they were blind to it.
 - **His heart-transplant operating table is only open to those who acknowledge themselves as sinners.** He came specifically for you!
3. Some have experienced a real change from meeting the Master who is now the King of your heart. You can give testimony, like Matthew, to a Father who forgives and restores.
 - Throw a party! Make Jesus the guest of honor and invite the sick..

Example: Bringing New Beginnings youth home as my ministry.

- King Jesus, the Physician, sees what everyone else overlooks.

Last Verse of "The Master's Hand"

You know there's many a man with his life out of tune, battered and scared with sin.
 And he's auctioned cheap to a thankless world much like that old violin.
 Oh, but then the Master comes, and that old foolish crowd they never understand
 the worth of a soul and the change that is wrought just by one touch of the Master's hand.
 And then he cried out,
 "One, give me one thousand. Who'll make it two?"

FURTHER INQUIRY

When Jesus delivered the demon possessed guy, the town found out and begged Jesus to leave their region. **Why?**

RECAP

- Matthew compiles a series of miracles showing Jesus' Kingly authority.
 - Over creation, the spiritual realm, the human heart, and even death.
- Jesus uses the physical healing of the lame man to show a spiritual healing.
- After Jesus makes the claim that He has authority over sin, Matthew gives himself as an example of Jesus' power.
- Further, he uses Jesus' response to the Pharisees at his dinner party to show Jesus' ministry in a nutshell: He has come as a Physician to heal His people.
- None of us are too sick. The Master has come to redeem anyone who comes to Him with a humble and repentant heart.

Challenge 1: Read Matthew, chapters 8-9. Make a note of each person Jesus talks to. Then, make a list of three adjectives of how Jesus speaks to each of them.

Challenge 2: Begin praying for one person who doesn't know Jesus. Pray for God's opportunity. Pray for Holy Spirit courage.

~ Soli DEO Gloria