



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King has power over sin!

Matthew 8:28-9:8

Message #26 of 80 – S1056

Sermon given on July 30, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King has power over sin!

Matthew 8:28-9:8

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 8**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- This morning is going to be a little different.
- But that is okay.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us to be still and listen carefully to the Word of God. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King has power over sin!**
- Last time, Jesus had finished the Sermon on the Mount.
- He then did three specific healings and many other healings.
- When a crowd gathers, Jesus tells the disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.
- He has a couple of brief conversations on the way to the boat and then they set out for the other side of the lake.
- Jesus falls asleep in the boat, and then a great storm comes up.
- The disciples freak out and wake Jesus up.
- Jesus questions why they are afraid and questions them about their faith.
- And then, with a word, Jesus calms the storm.
- The disciples were freaked out by the storm – now they are freaked out by what they have just witnessed.
- **Matthew 8:27**
- 'Who is this guy?'
- The disciples are still growing in their knowledge of who Jesus is.
- In the very next text, they will meet someone who knows exactly who Jesus is.
- **Matthew 8:28**
- 'Gergesenes' = Gadarenes

- In the ancient world, most bad things could be attributed to demons.
- This is still prevalent in the world today.
- The Egyptians believed the body had 36 parts and that any one or all of them could be possessed by demons.
- There are some today who would challenge the reality of demons or suggest that they are no longer active in the world.
- The Bible clearly teaches the reality of demons and says nothing to suggest that somehow, they are being suppressed either by God or by the church.
- The best and only defense against demon possession is Jesus Christ.
- Once someone gives their life to Christ, the Holy Spirit takes up residence within you.
- He will not share your life with a demon.
- As long as we are in Christ, we are protected from demon possession.
- We are not to live in fear of demons (**1 John 4:4**).

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

- Paul warns us that many of the conflicts of life originate in the spiritual realm (**Ephesians 6:11-12**).

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- Demons are still in the world, and it is possible that they might oppress or distress a believer.
- The best defense against that is following Christ as closely as possible.
- But the demons are not the point of this text.

- **Matthew 8:29**

- The disciples don't know who Jesus is, but these demons do.
- These are the demons speaking through the men.
- These demons know who Jesus is.
- They know that He is God in the flesh.
- They know that He has the authority to destroy them if He chooses to.
- They know more about Jesus than any human ever will and yet, they are lost, destined for destruction and they know that.

- ‘Son of God’ – This is the second time someone has referred to Jesus with this title.
- The first time was Satan as he tempted Jesus in the wilderness (**Matthew 4:3**).

Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

- ‘...before the time?’ – What time?
- This is most likely referring to the day of judgment.
- Some day in the future demons will face God and be judged for their sins against Him and His people.
- The Bible does not state clearly when that is.
- It could be when Satan is judged at the end of the Millennium.
- In Mark and Luke’s gospel Jesus asks the demon his name.
- He responds, ‘Legion, for we are many.’
- That doesn’t tell us exactly how many there were but a Roman legion would be between five and six thousand troops.
- No wonder these men behaved the way they did.
- **Matthew 8:30-34**
- Mark’s gospel says there were about two thousand pigs.
- The demons begged Jesus to send them into the pigs.
- The people begged Jesus to go away.
- It is possible they thought the swine running into the lake was a judgment from God and they didn’t want Jesus to bring judgment down on them too.
- One of the challenges of this account is the destruction of the swine.
- No explanations were given as to why Jesus allowed the demons to do this.
- Swine were an unclean animal to the Jews but destroying the herd for that reason doesn’t fit Christ’s pattern of behavior.
- This would be a significant financial loss to the owners of the swine.
- Mark’s gospel says that when the people of the town came out to see what was happening that the man with demon named Legion was clothed and in his right mind.
- The townspeople had a choice, be upset about the loss of the swine or to rejoice that the man had been set free.

- They chose to be upset (**Matthew 16:26**).
- For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**
- 2,000 swine was a small price for a man to be delivered from the living hell of being possessed by so many demons.
 - This text is not about the demons – it is not about the pigs – it is not about the townspeople – it isn't even about the man who was delivered from Demon-possession.
 - This text is about Jesus and His power and authority.
 - He had already proven His power and authority over the natural world through healing and calming the storm.
 - And now He proves that He has power and authority over the spiritual realm.
 - The disciples asked, 'Who is this man?'
 - The demons answered, 'He is the Son of God!'
 - Jesus is God in the flesh.
 - He was in all ways like one of us, but at the same time in all ways like God the Father.
 - We need to be conscious of the fact that demons are real, but we are not to fear them because Jesus has complete authority over them.
 - Jesus is Lord, he is our Savior-King with absolute authority over the spiritual realm.
 - And because we are His people, we rest in His authority and power to protect from spiritual assaults from the hater of our soul.
 - It is comforting to know that Jesus is there to protect us in the unseen spiritual realm, but in this next section, Jesus addresses our greatest need.
 - **Matthew 9:1-2**
 - They are back in Capernaum.
 - Mark includes some interesting details. **Mark 2:3-4**
- Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four *men*.⁴ And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.**
- It has been said, 'Forgiveness is man's deepest need and God's highest achievement.'

- This man came to Jesus because he had a need to be healed.
- It was a great need in this man's life, but it wasn't his greatest need.
- Jesus could see that he had faith, and He dealt with his deepest need first.
- There were some who witnessed this who disapproved.
- **Matthew 9:3**
- The scribes were well educated in the Law of Moses.
- In their mind, forgiveness came through the Law, by way of a sacrifice at the temple with the aid of one of the priests.
- What Jesus just said is contrary to everything they know about forgiveness.
- Jesus was claiming to have the authority that only God had – to forgive sins.
- **Matthew 9:4**
- They accused Jesus of evil and He replies by telling them they are the ones who are thinking evil thoughts.
- It would have been right for them to question Jesus and ask Him to explain what He understood about forgiveness of sins.
- It is good to question how and why we do certain things in the church.
- The Bible does not outline how a church service is to be organized.
- For example, why do we do worship at the beginning of the service?
- It's not biblical, it's tradition.
- It's not unbiblical, it is good and useful.
- And before you complain that we didn't do worship this morning, examine your heart.
- It would be hypocritical to complain that there wasn't any worship if you don't participate in worship by singing when we do have it.
- As Christ-followers, worship is one of the ways we engage with God.
- Worship is not about watching David and the team play and sing.
- Worship is the body of Christ following the worship team with our hearts, minds, AND voices.
- You are not engaged in worship if you are not singing.
- Worship in this church would be so much better if everyone sang.
- And God would smile down upon us and bless us.

- Jesus is saying that the greatest need this man has is forgiveness.
- This is the greatest need we all have.
- Not just forgiveness for salvation, but everyday forgiveness.
- The scribes were letting their religion get in the way of the needs of others.
- We must be very careful that we don't get caught up in that kind of religious hypocrisy too.

- **Matthew 9:5-6**

- This is a preview of what Jesus will accomplish on the cross.
- Up to that point, people had to take a sacrifice to the priest at the temple to be forgiven for their sins.
- On the cross Jesus became our Mediator before God for the forgiveness of sins (**Hebrews 9:15**).

And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

- Jesus fulfilled the Law and eliminated the need for the temple and the priesthood.
- There is no longer a need to bring a sacrifice because Jesus is our sacrifice, once and for all time.
- His one sacrifice is sufficient to wash away the sins for every human who has lived since He rose from the dead.
- And all that is needed to appropriate that forgiveness is faith.
- Believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins – and you are forgiven, and your sins are washed away.
- Believe that Jesus forgives the sins you continue to commit – and you will be forgiven, and those sins are washed away.
- Believe that Jesus alone is the way to receive forgiveness of sins.
- Believe that every sin, no matter how small or how great, can be forgiven and needs to be forgiven.
- The paralytic man is a picture of us all. Sin paralyzes us spiritually.
- It keeps us from living the abundant life Jesus promised us in John 10:10.
- Sin robs us of the good God wants to give us.

- Sin wrecks relationships, destroys families, and causes nations to fall into ruin.

'Forgiveness is man's deepest need and God's highest achievement.'

- Through Christ, God made a way to heal what sin has broken.
- And then we can be like the paralyzed man.

- **Matthew 9:7**

- Healing comes through faith in Christ Jesus.
- This man knew a freedom that he had lost because of his condition.
- We were created to be free. **John 8:36**

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

- And when we are free, something else comes as well.

- **Matthew 9:8**

- Nothing glorifies God like His children walking in freedom through forgiveness by faith in Christ Jesus.
- I started this message by saying things would be different this morning.
- David had to go away to attend the service for his uncle.
- We reached out to everyone we could think of but couldn't find someone to lead us in worship.
- This is the first time in almost nineteen years that we have had a service without worship.
- I pray it doesn't happen again before Jesus comes to get us.
- But when we are free through faith in Christ Jesus with all our sins forgiven, we are free to accept whatever God gives us, even a church service without worship.
- David will be back next week – encourage him.
- And then when we worship next week, let's do it like Jesus is right here with us. Amen?!
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