

# Trusting in Jesus' power to bring transformation

## Matthew 8–9

---

Steve Walton

*Trinity College, Bristol*

## CONTEXT

- ▶ A key echo
  - ▶ 'Jesus went throughout Galilee, **teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness** among the people.' (4:23)
  - ▶ 'Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, **teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.**' (9:35)
- ▶ Matthew 5–7 teaching and proclaiming
- ▶ Matthew 8–9 curing disease and sickness

## CONTEXT

- ▶ Jesus' great sermon in 5–7
  - ▶ 'by their fruits you shall know them' 7:16
    - ▶ now see the fruits of Jesus' ministry in his actions

## CONTEXT

- ▶ Jesus' great sermon in 5–7
  - ▶ 'by their fruits you shall know them' 7:16
  - ▶ Jesus' authority as teacher
    - ▶ 'I say to you' 13x in Matt 5–6
    - ▶ 7:21 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord" ...'
    - ▶ 7:23 Jesus as the one who judges
    - ▶ 7:24-26 the words of Jesus to be practised
    - ▶ 7:29 'he taught them as one having authority'

## REPEATED THEMES

- ▶ Jesus' authority in 8–9 — nine healings
  - ▶ two demonised people 8:29–9:1; 9:32–34
  - ▶ 'all the sick' 8:16
  - ▶ stilling of the storm 8:23–27

## REPEATED THEMES

- ▶ Jesus' authority — key phrases
  - ▶ 8:9 'I myself am a man under **authority**'
  - ▶ 8:27 'What sort of man is this?'
  - ▶ 8:29, 31 the demons recognise Jesus and fear him — thus 8:32
  - ▶ 9:6 '...that you may know that the son of man has **authority** on earth to forgive sins...' cf. 9:2
  - ▶ 9:8 'they were filled with awe and glorified God who had given such **authority** to human beings'
  - ▶ 9:33 'the crowds were amazed'  
cf. 7:28 'the crowds were astounded at his teaching'

## CONTEXT

- ▶ What follows?
  - ▶ 9:36–11:1 Jesus sends his disciples out
    - ▶ ‘As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.’ 10:7-8
    - ▶ ‘Jesus went throughout Galilee, **teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness** among the people.’ 4:23; cf. 9:35

## CONTEXT

- ▶ What follows?
  - ▶ 9:36–11:1 Jesus sends his disciples out
    - ▶ ‘As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.’ 10:7-8
    - ▶ 10:1 ‘Jesus...gave them **authority**’
    - ▶ 10:40-42 response to the disciples is response to Jesus cf. 10:32-33, 34-39
  - ▶ Jesus’ ministry is being extended through his disciples
    - ▶ what he does, they do
    - ▶ what he says, they say



## THE MAN WITH LEPROSY 8:1-4

- ▶ kneels (προσεκύνει) before Jesus v 2
- ▶ addresses Jesus as 'Lord' κύριε v 2
- ▶ recognises Jesus' power and authority v 2
- ▶ Jesus touches the man v 3
  - ▶ cf. Lev 13:45-46 'The person who has the leprous disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head be dishevelled; and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, "Unclean, unclean." He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.'

## THE MAN WITH LEPROSY 8:1-4

- ▶ kneels (προσεκύνει) before Jesus v 2
- ▶ addresses Jesus as 'Lord' κύριε v 2
- ▶ recognises Jesus' power v 2
- ▶ Jesus touches the man v 3
- ▶ Jesus **himself** heals the man v 3
- ▶ Jesus sends the man to the priest cf. Lev 14:1-4

## THE MAN WITH LEPROSY 8:1-4

- ▶ kneels (προσεκύνει) before Jesus v 2
- ▶ addresses Jesus as 'Lord' κύριε v 2
- ▶ recognises Jesus' power v 2
- ▶ Jesus touches the man v 3
- ▶ Jesus himself heals the man v 3
- ▶ Jesus sends the man to the priest cf. Lev 14:1-4

## THE CENTURION 8:5-13

- ▶ the centurion makes a humble appeal vv 5-6, 8
- ▶ the centurion recognises the authority of Jesus' words vv 8, 9, 10
- ▶ Jesus commends the centurion v 10
- ▶ Who is this man?

## **JESUS' AUTHORITY IN HEALING AND DELIVERANCE 8:14-17**

- ▶ disease: Peter's mother in law vv 15-16 cf. v 2
- ▶ evil spirits v 16 'with a word' cf. vv 8, 13
- ▶ 'This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."' v 17 cf. Isaiah 53:4



The healings anticipate the passion in that they begin to roll back the effects of the sins for which Jesus came to die.

Robert Gundry, *Matthew*, 150

## HOW (NOT) TO RESPOND 8:18-22

- ▶ the teacher of the law vv 19-20
  - ▶ 'The gospel is a rose which cannot be plucked without prickles' Thomas Watson
- ▶ the other disciple vv 21-22
  - ▶ echo of 'go' *ἀπέρχομαι* vv 21, 18
  - ▶ burying father a sacred duty Gen 50:5-6; Tobit 4:3
  - ▶ cf. 7:21 'Not everyone who calls me, "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.'
  - ▶ v 22 Jesus' response 'keep following' *ἀκολουθεῖ*

## **JESUS' RESPONSE TO THE STORM 8:23-27**

- ▶ Matthew eliminates details from Mark 4:35-41
  - ▶ other boats Mark 4:36
  - ▶ Jesus sleeping in the stern on a cushion Mark 4:38
- ▶ focus on Jesus' authority, as Mark, but heightened



## TRUSTING IN JESUS' POWER TO BRING TRANSFORMATION

---



You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them. You crushed Rahab like a carcass; you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

Psalm 89:9-10

Your way was through the sea, your path, through the mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

Psalm 77:19

## TRUSTING IN JESUS' POWER TO BRING TRANSFORMATION

---



Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me...rescue me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters. Do not let the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the Pit close its mouth over me.

Psalm 69:1, 14-15

## TRUSTING IN JESUS' POWER TO BRING TRANSFORMATION

---



I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Psalm 4:8

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the LORD sustains me.

Psalm 3:5

## JESUS' RESPONSE TO THE STORM 8:23-27

- ▶ compared to Mark, Matthew eliminates inessential details
- ▶ focus on Jesus' authority, as Mark, but heightened
  - ▶ disciples address Jesus as 'Lord' v 25
  - ▶ disciples ask Jesus to 'save' v 25
  - ▶ strong focus on Christology at end v 27

## THE TWO DEMONISED MEN 8:28–9:1

- ▶ about half the length of Mark 5:1-20
- ▶ demons recognise Jesus as son of God v 29a cf. 4:3, 6
- ▶ demons recognise Jesus can 'torment' them v 29b
- ▶ Jesus commands the demons with one word v 32
- ▶ the townspeople beg Jesus to leave v 34
- ▶ gentiles: Gadara v 28 and pigs v 30
- ▶ parallel to the centurion 8:5-13

## THE PARALYSED MAN 9:2-8

- ▶ Jesus charged with blasphemy v 3
- ▶ Jesus claims authority to forgive vv 2, 6a cf. 6:10
- ▶ Jesus heals on his own authority v 6b  
— contrast Elijah 1 Kings 17:20-21
- ▶ the crowd are awestruck 'they glorified God, who had given such **authority** to human beings.' v 8
- ▶ the friends' faith v 2 cf. the centurion 8:5-13

## **JESUS CALLS MATTHEW TO FOLLOW HIM 9:9-13**

- ▶ Jesus' authority in calling Matthew v 9
- ▶ Jesus meets Matthew's friends vv 10-11
- ▶ Jesus underlines his authority in his mission vv 12-13
  - ▶ to forgive and restore sinners

## THE NEWNESS OF WHAT JESUS BRINGS 9:14-17

- ▶ fasting and Jesus the bridegroom
  - ▶ fasting about mourning over the present state of God's people, Israel
  - ▶ in Jesus, things are changing — so no need to fast; he is the bridegroom
  - ▶ the suffering of Jesus to come v 15



## JESUS HEALS TWO WOMEN 9:18-26

- ▶ the synagogue ruler's daughter who has died
  - ▶ recognition of Jesus' authority 'knelt' προσεκύνει v 18; cf. 8:2
- ▶ the woman with haemorrhages for twelve years vv 20-22
  - ▶ purity flows from Jesus to the woman
  - ▶ Jesus seeks public acknowledgement
- ▶ back at the synagogue ruler v 23
  - ▶ Jesus rolls back the power of death v 25

## JESUS HEALS TWO BLIND MEN 9:27-31

- ▶ 'son of David' v 27
- ▶ Jesus opens their physical eyes vv 29-30
- ▶ preparing for 11:4-5, echoing 'the eyes of the blind shall be opened' Isa 35:5
- ▶ Jesus' authority is met by faith
  - ▶ 'Do you believe...?' v 28
  - ▶ 'According to your faith...' v 29

## JESUS' AUTHORITY OVER DEMONS AND ILLNESS 9:32-34

- ▶ the man who cannot speak v 32
  - ▶ Jesus heals him v 33
- ▶ Jesus accused of working for the ruler of demons v 34
  - see 12:24
- ▶ Summary
  - 9:35 'Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.'

## JESUS' AUTHORITY

- ▶ in Jesus' ministry, Scripture is being fulfilled
- ▶ he heals with touch or word
- ▶ he calms a storm with words
- ▶ he controls demons with words
- ▶ he announces forgiveness and healing
- ▶ he rolls back the power of death
- ▶ over all kinds of needs
- ▶ Jesus is open to those in need
- ▶ faith is a key element in experiencing Jesus' power

To get these slides, visit  
**Acts and More**

<http://steve walton.info>