MOROGORO BIBLE COLLEGE

# A walk through Matthew 8–9

## To make sense of this section (and any section!), do two things

### look at the context

### look for repeated themes and ideas

## Context (1): an echo and the previous section

### Context: an echo from 4:23 to 9:35

#### Jesus teaching and preaching the kingdom chs 5–7

#### Jesus healing all kinds of illness and oppression chs 8–9

### Context: Jesus’ great sermon in chs 5–7

#### Jesus and the law, esp. 5:17-48—six examples of how Scripture can be twisted or needed further application – note 8:4, 5-13

#### ‘by their fruits you shall know them’ 7:16

#### Jesus’ authority as teacher is a key theme in the sermon

##### ‘I say to you’ 13 times in various form in chs 5–6:5:18, 22, 26, 28, 32, 34, 39, 66; 6:2, 5, 16, 25, 29

##### 7:21, 23, 24-26, 29

## Look for repeated themes

### here, *Jesus’ authority* is also a major theme, in tune with the context

### nine specific healings in these two chapters, plus stilling the storm (8:23-27)

#### demonised people 8:29–9:1; 9:32-34

#### Jesus healed ‘all the sick’ 8:16

### key phrases which point to this theme

#### 8:9, 27, 29, 31, 32; 9:2, 6, 8, 33 (cf. 7:28)

## Context (2): what follows after this section?

### notice the next section, where Jesus sends out his disciples, 9:36–11:1

### 10:7-8 — these are what Jesus has just been doing, and echo 4:23; 9:35

### 10:1 Jesus gives them ‘authority’

### 10:40-42; 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

### the man

#### comes and kneels before Jesus v 2 *proskunei*

#### addresses him as ‘Lord’ v 2 *kurie*

#### recognises the power and authority of Jesus v 2

### Jesus

#### touches him v 3; Leviticus 13:45-46; Numbers 12:10, 12; Job 18:13

#### himself heals v 3

#### sends him to the priest v 4; Leviticus 14:1-4

### implications Isaiah 35:5-6; 61:1; Matthew 11:5

## The centurion 8:5-13

### the centurion

#### a gentile and a member (and an officer) of the Roman army which is occupying the land of the Jews

#### approaches Jesus in *humility* vv 5-6, 8

#### recognises *the authority of Jesus’ words* vv 8, 9, 10

### the authority of Jesus; notice vv 8-9, 10

## Jesus’ authority in healing and deliverance 8:14-17

### authority over *disease* vv 15-16

### authority over *evil spirits* v 16; cf. vv 8, 13

### Matthew starts to show us the answer to our question about who this man is v 17, quoting 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; Genesis 50:5-6; Tobit 4:3 — contrast 7:21

## Jesus’ response to the storm 8:23-27

### Matthew eliminates details which are not essential from Mark’s version (Mark 4:35-41)

#### e.g. the ‘other boats’ 4:36, Jesus sleeping in the stern on a cushion, 4:38

### Matthew focuses on *Jesus’ unique authority* like Mark, but heightens it

#### control of sea was God’s prerogative in Scripture Psalms 89:9-10; 93:3-4; 106:8-9; 104:6-7; 77:19

#### storms were symbolic of evil forces Psalms 69:1, 14-15; 18:16

#### peaceful sleep a mark of trust in God Proverbs 3:23-24; Psalms 4:8; 3:5

#### disciples address Jesus as ‘Lord’ v 25 (Matthean, cf. vv 2, 6, 8, 21, 25)

#### disciples ask him to ‘save’ v 25 (Matthean)

#### strong focus on Christology at end v 27

### also an interest in discipleship (Gunther Bornkamm)

#### v 26 is *before* the stilling of storm to encourage faith *before* Jesus acts to rescue them;contrast Mark 4:30

## The two demonised men 8:28–9:1; cf. Mark 5:1-20

### Jesus’ authority

#### the demons recognise him as son of God v 29a; cf. 4:3, 6

#### the demons recognise Jesus as the one who can ‘torment’ them v 29b

#### Jesus commands the demons with one word, and then go v 32

#### the terrified townspeople *beg* Jesus to leave v 34

### the kind of people Jesus is helping

#### gentiles: Gadara v 28 and pigs v 30; parallel to centurion 8:5-13

## The paralysed man 9:2-8

### the authority of Jesus

#### the charge against Jesus is 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 crowds are awestruck v 8

### the friends’ faith v 2; cf the centurion 8:5-13

## Jesus calls Matthew to follow him 9:9-13

### Jesus’ authority v 9

### Matthew introduces Jesus to his friends vv 10-11

### Jesus underlines his authority in his mission vv 12-13

## Jesus teaches about the newness of what he brings 9:14-17

### fasting: why don’t Jesus’ disciples do as the Pharisees and John’s disciples do in fasting regularly?

#### fasting is about mourning over the present state of God’s people, Israel;but in Jesus things are changing — so no need to fast

#### the suffering of Jesus to come v 15

## Jesus heals two women 9:18-26

### the synagogue ruler’s daughter who has died vv 18-19, 23-26; cf. 8:2 the man with leprosy

### Jesus is interrupted along the way vv 20-22

### Jesus gets to the synagogue ruler’s house vv 23, 25

## Jesus heals two blind men 9:27-31

### ‘son of David’ v 27

#### Jesus’ authority: he opens their physical eyes vv 29-30; preparing for 11:4-5 (Isaiah 35:5)

### Jesus’ authority is met by human faith vv 28, 29

## Jesus’ authority over demons and illness 9:32-34

### the man who cannot speak vv 32-33

### Jesus accused of working for the ruler of demons v 34 — see 12:24

### *Matthew’s summary* of what Jesus has been doing since 4:23, in 9:35

## So what have we seen of Jesus’ authority here?

### in Jesus and his ministry, God is bringing to fulfilment the promises of Scripture

### Jesus’ authority is so great that

#### he heals with touch and word: the man with leprosy, Peter’s mother-in-law, the blind men

#### he heals at a distance with word: the centurion’s servant

#### he can calm a storm on the lake with words

#### he can control demons with words

#### he can announce forgiveness and demonstrate that his words are effective: the paralysed man

#### he can roll back the power of death and recover people from it

#### it can meet need of all kinds: physical illness or disability; forgiveness of sins; deliverance from evil and demonic oppression

#### Jesus’ authority even extends over the elements of the weather and sea

### Jesus is open to those who are in need

### faith is a key element in experiencing Jesus’ liberating and healing power