



Empowering People to Change the World

Kingdom Authority Over Sin & Sickness

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Throughout the ministry of Jesus, we observe Him proclaiming the Kingdom of God and then demonstrating the Kingdom through healing.

Matthew 4:23-24 *“Jesus went all over Galilee...preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing all kinds of sickness and disease”*

Then Jesus ascends a mountain and preaches on the Principles of the Kingdom of God - Proclamation.

And now in our passage today, Jesus dives right back into Demonstrating the Kingdom.

The Big Take Away:
Jesus has Authority over Sin and Sickness

Matthew 8:1-4

When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ² And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”³ Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.⁴ And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

- Let's be clear: All sin and sickness is the result of the fall of Adam and original sin.
- All of us are subject to sicknesses and disease because of sin.
- But Christ has come with the Kingdom of God and in the Kingdom there is healing. (Over 50% of Jesus' ministry was healing the sick.)

- A Leper came to Him.
- 3 Things you need to know about Leprosy in the Bible:
 - 1** Leprosy was always associated with sin. It was not something to be healed but rather cleansed from. It is a type of sin in the Bible.
 - A leper never went to a physician but rather was prescribed to go to a Priest.
 - In Leviticus the leper was to go to the Priest, not to be healed, but he was to show himself and he was labeled “unclean.”
 - If there was a healing, he was to present himself to the Priest that he was cleansed—no examples in the Bible of anyone being healed and going to the Priest, until Jesus came.
 - A leper was seen as being punished for sin and they were to shout out “unclean unclean” when they came near a village.
 - 2** A Leper was to be avoided at all costs. They were always outcasts.
 - People threw stones at them to keep them away.
 - This leper, with the stigma of being a sinner and I’m glad because after reading the Sermon on the Mount I feel like leper, the standards are so high.
 - 3** A Leper had no relationships because it was considered unclean to touch them.
- Luke in his record, as a doctor, was a “man full of leprosy” may have been blind, missing limbs, hair coming out (Lev 13). But that is what sin is like!
 - Sin ruins you!
 - Sin ruins you even physically.
 - It is just a spot at first, but then it grows into a shining spot, and then it starts taking over your whole system
- The question is “If you are willing, you can make me clean?”

Jesus is Always Willing to Heal us

- Jesus says “I am willing” and you know it means “I am willing with all of My heart.

- Jesus is willing with all His heart to cleanse you of your sinful ways!
 - Maybe you are hiding something—it is your personal leprosy!
 - Leprosy of Anger,
 - Leprosy of lust,
 - Leprosy of jealousy,
 - Leprosy of pride.
 - But is Jesus really willing to heal me?
 - One more time? It is because we think He loves with a human love.
 - Jesus says “I am willing to cleanse you!”
- This leper has no dignity anymore—cannot pick up his kids, cannot hug his wife, cannot have any friends. THEN, Jesus TOUCHES him!!
- The religious authorities said his leprosy was “from the hand of God,” and now “the hand of God” is touching him!!
- The Levitical Law said that if you touch a leper you become unclean; but the Kingdom Law says when you touch a leper, the leper becomes clean!

Religion says you will Always be Unclean. Kingdom Law says when you are Touched by God, you are made Clean.

- Immediately cleansed! Fingers grow back, skins becomes pink...

Matthew 8:4

‘And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

- Why? For a testimony to the religious leaders!
- In Leviticus 13-14 there is a huge examination involved in testing leprosy. Caiphas, the High Priest at the time, would have seen the leper as clean. He is to show himself at the Temple. You said that I

was unclean (when he came before upon contracting leprosy) but now I am clean! You must now give a sacrifice for his cleansing.

- After his cleansing they were to sacrifice a lamb. The blood is being applied for the cleansing of sin. A picture of Jesus. This was to be done before the priests. He was then to be pronounced to the nation that this man has been completely cleansed. Never done before.
- Jesus is sending a message to the nation of Israel—Lepers are being cleansed in our nation!

Our Testimony to Colorado Springs is that Lepers are being Healed

- That should be our message—the Churches Testimony! A Kingdom Revolution to our city.

Matthew 8:5-10

⁵ Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”⁷ And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”⁸ The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”¹⁰ When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!

- He is on the trade route through Galilee to Capernaum.
- You can see the synagogue in Capernaum even today. The original Capernaum is under that one.
- The Centurian, a man who commanded 100 men.
- Jesus marvels! Only two places Jesus marvels—the other is unbelief. But here, He marvels at the faith of the Centurian.

1. One is in Mark 6:7 where Jesus marvels at the unbelief in Nazareth.
 2. The other occasion is our passage, where Jesus marvels at the Centurion and his great faith. These are the only two times we have record of Jesus marveling.
- It seems, then, there are two things that make Jesus step back and say “Wow!”
 - 1) Those who believe when it is not expected they would.
 - 2) Those who disbelieve when there is every reason they should.
 - **Matthew 8:9**
⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”
 He is saying, “I understand how authority in a kingdom works. If Caesar tells me to do something I do it.” All of Rome is behind my decision. I give an order because Caesar has told me to do it, so I do it. I know your kingdom ways. I understand authority.

The Throne you are Submitted to is the Authority you will Walk in.

- You have authority based in your obedience you walk in.

Matthew 8:11-12

¹¹ And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

- There is a banqueting table for all of us. A marriage supper at the Second Coming of Christ.
- All nations, tribes and peoples will be coming to the table.

Matthew 8:13

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

Submit to the Kingdom Way and Faith will Arise

- It is amazing to me what faith can do in our lives! If you believe something is going to happen—you are convinced—it often happens!
- When our faith is in God, we are trusting Him and His resources.

Hebrews 11:1,6 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen... But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- You are either feeding your faith or feeding your fears.
- Feed your faith, starve your fears **or** you feed your fears and starve your faith.
 - People will experience the same thing as people of faith.
 - We will observe this later in our chapter.

Matthew 8:14-15

¹⁴ Now when Jesus had come into Peter’s house, He saw his wife’s mother lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵ So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

- She is healed immediately! She gets back to work immediately.
- What a beautiful picture of God’s healing in our lives. We serve as a result.
- The most powerful motivation—serving because you have been healed.

Matthew 8:16-17

¹⁶ When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, ¹⁷ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.”

- He healed ALL who were sick.
- The whole region they were coming. Wouldn't it be great if we could just walk in any hospital and heal everyone?
- Interesting verse—Isaiah 53:5 by his stripes we are healed. Two Camps.
 - 1st Camp says that this passage means everyone should be healed and that healing is in the Atonement.
 - 2nd Camp more reformed would say “no, it means we are made whole by His stripes.”
 - The interesting thing is that the Holy Spirit is not quoting vs 5 but vs 4.
 - Literally He is saying that through these physical healings then the prophecy of Isaiah 53:4 is being fulfilled. Meaning He bore our sicknesses and pains.
 - Even before the cross, they are experiencing the benefits of the cross. We are all the beneficiaries of the cross.
 - He has lifted off of us all sickness and pain and we get a foretaste of that even in this life. Sometimes God heals us and it is a foretaste of our complete healing someday.

The Kingdom of God is the “already but not yet”

- Jesus is the Healer!

- At the pool of Bethesda He healed only one. Hundreds were there. That was His choice to only heal one.
- A man at the Gate called Beautiful where Peter and James go in and they heal him. Jesus had walked past that man many times. God's purpose.
- At the Road, we see healing around here all the time!
- I wish we saw more healings, but they are increasing as faith is built up and testimonies give you faith.
- But there are no hard and fast rules. The point is that He loves us and sometimes He heals us.

Matthew 8:18-22

¹⁸ And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. ¹⁹ Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."²⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."²¹ Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."²² But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

- Jesus is saying, "This is not My environment. I am a pilgrim. I am an Ambassador."
- This is not Jesus' home—foxes have their dens; birds have nests.

Discipleship means Relinquishing your Hold on this World

- Discipleship is a longing for a different home! A place to rest your head.

- We will see the fountains, the streets of gold, the Temple. This is our true home. That is the rest!! Not rest here!!

Matthew 8:23-27

²³ Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. ²⁵ Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”²⁶ But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷ So the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Jesus uses fear to expose our lack of faith!

- **A Few observations:**
 1. In Mark’s Gospel of this same incident, Jesus says “Let us cross to the other side” Jesus is leading, guiding them!
 2. They are in God’s Perfect Will and there is a storm! Being in God’s Will often means you will have some big storms. Some people start blaming God and just quit.
- **Vs. 24** It’s seismic. It’s really big. Might it have been demonic?!
- 3. Sometimes it feels like Jesus is asleep. He is tired. He understands that we get weary.
- 4. Where Jesus Guides, He Provides. Ever get the feeling when you are in a storm that Jesus is sleeping?