

MERCY, IDENTITY, PROPHECY, AND AUTHORITY

Matthew 9:18-35 | December 18, 2022

I. Jesus' healings displayed His mercy

A. His Compassionate Touch

- An Unclean Leper
Matthew 8:3 "And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean."
- Peter's Mother-in-law
Matthew 8:15 "He touched her hand, and the fever left her..."
- A Ruler's Daughter
Matthew 9:25 "...he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose."
- Two Blind Men
Matthew 9:29 "Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."

"Jesus Christ is closer to you today than he was to the sinners and sufferers he spoke with and touched in his earthly ministry. Through his Spirit, Christ's own heart envelops his people with an embrace nearer and tighter than any physical embrace could ever achieve. His actions on earth in a body reflected his heart; the same heart now acts in the same ways toward us, for we are now his body." (Ortlund, Gentle and Lowly, 33)

B. His Comforting Word

- A Centurion
Matthew 8:7 “I will come and heal him.”
- His Disciples
Matthew 8:26 “Why are you afraid?”
- A Paralyzed Man
Matthew 9:2 “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”
- A Sick Woman
Matthew 9:22 “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.”

“The most dominant note left ringing in our ears after reading the Gospels, the most vivid and arresting element of the portrait, is the way the Holy Son of God moves toward, touches, heals, embraces, and forgives those who least deserve it...The Jesus given to us in the Gospels is not simply one who loves, but one who is love; merciful affections stream from his innermost heart as rays from the sun.” (Ortlund, Gentle and Lowly, 27)

II. Jesus' healings verified His identity

A. The Son of God

Matthew 8:29 "What have you to do with us, O Son of God?"

B. The Son of Man

Matthew 9:6 "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

C. The Physician of Souls

Matthew 9:12 "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."

D. The Son of David

Matthew 9:27 "Have mercy on us, Son of David."

III. Jesus' healings fulfilled OT prophecy

A. Matthew 8:16-17 and Isaiah 53:4

B. Matthew 11:25 and Isaiah 35:5-6

IV. Jesus' healings proved His authority

Matthew 7:28–29 “And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.”

- A. Leprosy (8:1-4)
- B. Paralysis (8:5-13; 9:1-8)
- C. Fever (8:15)
- D. Demons (8:16 28-34, 9:32-34)
- E. Storms (8:23-27)
- F. Sin (9:1-8)
- G. Disease (9:20-22)
- H. Death (9:18-26)
- I. Blindness (9:27-31)
- J. Muteness (9:32-34)

Isaiah 9:6–7 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”