

"To Be Continued..."

- Growing up, before streaming services and on-demand TV, there were few words more frustrating than those. You'd finally get to the **best part** of the story—and the screen would fade to black. No next episode. Just waiting.
- Some of you never really experienced that. Today, when a show ends, we just click Next Episode and keep going.
- There's no pause, no suspense—no waiting.
- But back then, when the story finally picked up again, it always began the same way.
- Before anything new happened, you were reminded of what had already happened.

"Previously on..."

- Those words mattered, because you couldn't understand where the story was going unless you remembered where it had been.

Previously in the Gospel of Matthew -

Jesus demonstrates His authority over diseases, disasters, demons, and disciples. Because He is Lord of all creation, He is worthy to be Lord of our lives.

Let me remind you that - Jesus is Lord of All -

- **Charles Spurgeon once said of Jesus**, "He spoke, and it was done. He commanded, and it stood fast. There was no need for Him to labor, no need for Him to tarry. His bare word was mighty power, and it performed all that He decreed."

Authority over Disease, Demons and Death, therefore He has authority over Disciples - Part Two -

Jesus' Authority over Disease – Mt. 9:1-8;18-22,27-31;

Healing of a Paralytic (Matthew 9:1-8)

- Jesus returns to Capernaum.
- A paralytic is brought to Him on a mat. Mark & Luke give more details.
 - **Mark 2:3-5** – ...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.
 - ⁵ When Jesus saw **their faith**, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."
 - So, "their" faith refers to the **collective faith of the group**: this has been described as "...the active, persistent faith of the friends who brought him, combined with the hopeful, consenting faith of the paralytic himself.
 - **He had to consent** to this rather public and perhaps embarrassing journey. He allowed himself to be carried, to be lowered through a roof, and to be presented before Jesus.
 - It's a beautiful picture of faith working together, where one's belief can encourage and uplift another, leading to a powerful encounter with Christ. Jesus recognized and honored this combined expression of trust in Him.
 - We heard a preacher say, "You need Matt carriers – men that will carry you to Jesus = When he saw **their faith**
- Jesus first declares his sins forgiven, then commands him to rise, take up his mat, and walk.

- Jesus not only demonstrates his authority over Disease, but ultimately over sin.
 - Jesus has power to Save!

Healing of a Woman with a Hemorrhage (Matthew 9:20-22)

- A synagogue official named Jairus pleads with Jesus to come and heal his dying daughter.
- As **Jesus is on His way this** man's house, a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years touches the hem of His garment.
- She is immediately healed.
- Jesus turns, sees her, and commends her faith, affirming her healing.

Healing of Two Blind Men (Matthew 9:27-31)

- As Jesus leaves Jairus's house, two blind men follow Him, crying out for mercy.
- Jesus asks if they believe He can do this, and upon their affirmation, touches their eyes.
- They are healed according to their faith, but Jesus sternly warns them not to tell anyone, though they spread the news.

Healing of a Mute Demonic (Matthew 9:32-34)

- A mute man, possessed by a demon, is brought to Jesus.
- Jesus casts out the demon, and the man begins to speak, astonishing the crowds.
- The Pharisees, however, accuse Jesus of casting out demons by the power of the prince of demons.
- Which also points to ... (next point)

Jesus' Authority Over Demons – Mt. 9:32-34

- **We are in a Spiritual Battle – Ephesians 6:12**
 - **Ephesians 6:12** - 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.
- **Satan is a lion on a leash – I John 4:4**
 - **I 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.
- **We Win in the End – Revelation 21:5-7**
 - **Revelation 21:5-7** - Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

We think these are just random miracles

- In Jesus walking through town like...
 - **you get a miracle and you get a miracle**
- Matthew does record two summaries of Jesus going by the countryside healing all kinds of disease diseases Matthew four Matthew nine
- What he includes here point too much deeper and greater meanings. They are Messianic miracles.

Matthew is writing to a predominately Jewish Audience seeking to prove that Jesus is Messiah

Let's compare the healings in Matthew 9 to some of those Messianic signs:

Healing of the Lame/Paralytic (Matthew 9:1-8):

Healing of the Blind (Matthew 9:27-31):

Healing of the Mute/Dumb (Matthew 9:32-34):

- **Isaiah 35:5-6** - Then the eyes of the blind **shall be opened**, And the ears of the **deaf shall be unstopped**. ⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the **tongue of the dumb sing**. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.
- **Isaiah 29:18** - In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the **eyes of the blind shall** see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

The man possessed by a demon, who was mute, began to speak after Jesus cast out the demon.

- This miraculous restoration of speech directly aligns with the prophetic expectations for the Messiah. The crowd's reaction – "Never was anything like this seen in Israel" (Matthew 9:33) – underscores the uniqueness and significance of these Messianic signs.
- While there is no specific prophecy stating "the Messiah will cast out demons," the overall expectation was that the Messiah would inaugurate God's Kingdom and triumph over all evil and oppression, including spiritual forces.

The healings in Matthew 9 were not random acts.

- **They were deliberate, powerful demonstrations of Jesus fulfilling the very prophecies that the Jewish people had been anticipating for centuries regarding their Messiah.**
- **He was literally opening blind eyes, unstopping deaf ears (which Matthew 9 implies through the mute man's healing), causing the lame to walk, and even raising the dead, all while proclaiming forgiveness of sins – actions consistent with the divine authority of the promised Messiah.**

Jesus' authority over sin infuriated the scribes (the teachers of the law) because they knew only God can forgive sins.

- **Jesus was thus claiming to be God, which brings us to the good news of the kingdom.**
- **Chapters 8–9 continue to put Jesus' deity on display.**
- **Only God is able to calm the wind and the waves.**
- **Only God is able to command disease.**
- **Only God can forgive sins.**
- **Therefore, since Jesus does all these things, we conclude that Jesus is God. In other words, the King is here.**

On the way to heal Jairus' Daughter...

Matthew 9:20-22 - And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the **hem of His garment**. ²¹ For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." ²² But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

Every Jewish man would wear what is called a "Tzitzit" (tsee-tseeth') Tassel

Numbers 15:38-41 – (God Told Moses) ³⁸ "Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. ³⁹ And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you *may* not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, ⁴⁰ and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your

God. ⁴¹ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God."

The blue string ([techelet](#)) on tzitzit serves as a **powerful, biblical reminder of God's presence**, commandments, and heavenly throne, acting as a spiritual focal point that elevates thoughts from the mundane to the divine. Historically, this rare dye represents royalty, connecting the wearer to the "kingdom of priests" and encouraging obedience to divine laws.

Matthew 9:20-22 - And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the **hem of His garment.** ²¹ For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."

One could make the argument that this women would have known OT Prophesies concerning the messiah, particularly Malachi 4

Malachi 4:2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings;

- The Hebrew word for "wings" here is kanaph – came mean the "border / hem of a garment."
- The woman said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well."
- For a woman suffering from a chronic, debilitating, and ritually unclean condition, the idea of the "Sun of Righteousness" rising with "healing in its kanaph" would have been a beacon of hope.
- When she saw Jesus, recognized by many as a prophet, and perhaps even the Messiah, her faith led her to believe that touching the very kanaph / hem / tassel of His garment she would be made whole!
- One commentator said, "She wasn't just touching any part of His clothing; she was likely seeking the specific symbolic part of His garment that represented the fulfillment of divine promise and power."
- **Jesus's response, "Daughter, your faith has made you well"**

Jesus' Authority over Disease – He has authority over demons, but he has ...

Jesus' Authority Over Death- Mt. 8:28-34

Matthew 9:23-26 - When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, ²⁴ He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. ²⁵ But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. ²⁶ And the report of this went out into all that land.

While not as explicitly stated as the healing of the blind or lame, there were expectations in Jewish thought regarding the resurrection at the end of days (Daniel 12:2, Isaiah 26:19). The Messiah was understood to have power over life and death.

- **Daniel 12:2** - And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.
- **Isaiah 26:19** - Your dead shall live; *Together with* my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 - Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are

seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

I Corinthians 15:51-58 - Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

I Corinthians 15:55 - ⁵⁵ "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law.⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Jesus' Authority Over DISCIPLES – Mt. 9:9-17

Intertwined with his description of Jesus authority is an interlude – His own calling / Question regarding fasting

Matthew 9:9-13 - As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

¹⁰ Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Matthew Opened His Heart to Jesus – "So he arose and followed him"

- He left his position as tax collector – a fairly lucrative business – He left his possessions.
- To follow Jesus – Great reminder that to follow Jesus is not just to add a little Jesus to our life. Following Jesus means surrendering everything to Him – Every area of our lives come under his authority

Matthew Opened His Home to Jesus –

- Matthew threw a party and invited (Matthew 9:10) "...many tax collectors and sinners."
- Matthew leveraged what he had to bring his friends to Jesus – Who is in your sphere of influence that does not know Jesus – FRANS

Matthew includes a Question about Fasting raised by John's disciples

Matthew 9:14-17 - Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.¹⁶ No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse.¹⁷ Nor do they put new wine into old

wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Jesus asks a great question: Can you fast during a celebration – like a wedding

- The time for fasting will come... when the bridegroom is taken away
- Church, we are living in that day – Fasting is simply setting aside
- Fasting is voluntarily and temporarily setting aside a physical need for a spiritual purpose.
- **Martyn Lloyd-Jones** "Fasting should really be made to include abstinence from anything which is legitimate in and of itself for the sake of some special spiritual purpose."

As with Matthew 4:24 – Matthew Gives another summary statement

Matthew 9:35-38 - Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶ But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. ³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

This is Summary Statement – Like Matthew 4:23

Take Action

Trust and Obey

- Trust and Obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus
- If Jesus has authority over disease, disaster, demons, and even death, he has authority of every one of us who claim to be his disciples
- What area of your life have you yet to submit to his authority

Fast and Pray

Pray Fervently

We have set aside the 25th of Every Month to pray and fast for spiritual awakening

- Our mission is equip you to relentlessly pursue God's design for you life
- As each of us individually pursues God's design, we collectively will bring hope and renewal to every person and every place in Thorsby and Beyond.
- Nothing of eternal significant happens without fervent prayer.

Fast Regularly

- Would you regularly set aside a physical need for a spiritual purpose?
- Beginning Feb. 1, we will ask you to participate in a Digital Fast – Make your smart phone dumb
- Matthew 17, there is a story of man who brings his demon possessed son to Jesus' disciples for healing – They could not do it. Jesus said this,
- Matthew 17:21 - However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."
- There are some thing God when we pray. There are some things that God will only do when we pray and fast.
 - Fasting, when done with a right heart, is a spiritual discipline that demonstrates our earnestness, our humility, and our deep desire for God's intervention. It's a way of saying that we are so

hungry for God and His will that we are willing to set aside even basic physical needs to seek Him more fully.

- **fasting, coupled with prayer, can deepen our spiritual focus, intensify our intercession, and position us in a place of greater dependence and surrender to God, which He often honors with powerful responses.** It's less about "forcing God's hand" and more about aligning our hearts and desires more fully with His.

Let's compare the healings in Matthew 9 to some of those Messianic signs:

1. Healing of the Lame/Paralytic (Matthew 9:1-8):

- **Messianic Prophecy:** The prophet Isaiah speaks clearly about this: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy" (Isaiah 35:5-6).
- **Comparison:** Jesus' healing of the paralytic in Matthew 9 directly fulfills the prophecy of the "lame man leaping like a deer." More than just a physical healing, Jesus also declares the man's sins forgiven, demonstrating an authority over sin that was understood to be uniquely God's, a further sign of His divine nature often associated with the Messiah.

2. Healing of the Blind (Matthew 9:27-31):

- **Messianic Prophecy:** Again, Isaiah 35:5 states, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened." Isaiah 29:18 also mentions, "In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see."
- **Comparison:** The two blind men crying out for mercy and subsequently receiving their sight from Jesus is a clear and direct fulfillment of these prophecies. It was a sign that the "light" of the Messiah had truly come into the world.

3. Healing of the Mute/Dumb (Matthew 9:32-34):

- **Messianic Prophecy:** Isaiah 35:6 says, "...and the tongue of the mute sing for joy."
- **Comparison:** The man possessed by a demon, who was mute, began to speak after Jesus cast out the demon. This miraculous restoration of speech directly aligns with the prophetic expectations for the Messiah. The crowd's reaction – "Never was anything like this seen in Israel" (Matthew 9:33) – underscores the uniqueness and significance of these Messianic signs.

4. Casting Out Demons (Matthew 9:32-34):

- **Messianic Prophecy:** While there isn't a specific prophecy stating "the Messiah will cast out demons," the overall expectation was that the Messiah would inaugurate God's Kingdom and triumph over all evil and oppression, including spiritual forces.
- **Comparison:** Jesus' authority over demons demonstrated His power over the spiritual realm and the forces of evil, a clear indication of the coming of God's Kingdom through Him. The Pharisees' accusation that He cast out demons by the prince of demons (Matthew 9:34) actually highlights that they recognized the power, even if they attributed it to the wrong source.

5. Raising the Dead (Raising of Jairus's Daughter, Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26):

- **Messianic Prophecy:** While not as explicitly stated as the healing of the blind or lame, there were expectations in Jewish thought regarding the resurrection at the end of days (Daniel 12:2, Isaiah 26:19). The Messiah was understood to have power over life and death.
- **Comparison:** Jesus raising Jairus's daughter from the dead was perhaps the most astonishing sign of His Messianic authority in Matthew 9, demonstrating His power over death itself – a power reserved for God and integral to the Messianic age.

In summary:

The healings in Matthew 9 were not random acts. They were deliberate, powerful demonstrations of Jesus fulfilling the very prophecies that the Jewish people had been anticipating for centuries regarding their Messiah. He was literally opening blind eyes, unstopping deaf ears (which Matthew

9 implies through the mute man's healing), causing the lame to walk, and even raising the dead, all while proclaiming forgiveness of sins – actions consistent with the divine authority of the promised Messiah.

He is the only One who can deliver me from the penalty of sin, providing for my justification. He is the only One who can deliver me from the power of sin, ensuring my sanctification. And He is the only One who can deliver me from the presence of sin, promising my future glorification. In light of who Jesus is and what He can do, our text provides the appropriate responses.

Akin, Daniel L.. Exalting Jesus in Mark (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (pp. 39-40). (Function). Kindle Edition.

Devotional Thought: The Power of Persistent, Burden-Bearing Faith

The scene in Mark 2 is vivid: a house overflowing, a desperate man paralyzed and unable to reach Jesus, and four unwavering friends. These men didn't just point the paralytic towards Jesus or offer a sympathetic word; they literally carried his burden. When the crowd blocked their way, they didn't give up. Instead, they scaled the roof, dismantled it, and lowered their friend directly into the Savior's presence.

This act speaks volumes about a particular kind of faith—a faith that is:

- **Proactive and Resourceful:** They didn't wait for an opening; they created one. Their faith wasn't passive; it was innovative and determined.
- **Persistent and Undeterred:** Obstacles didn't deter them; they fueled their resolve. They believed so strongly in Jesus' ability to heal that no barrier was too great.
- **Burden-Bearing:** They literally shouldered their friend's infirmity, demonstrating a deep love and commitment. This wasn't just about getting a man healed; it was about loving their neighbor sacrificially.
- **Intercessory:** Their actions were a powerful form of intercession. They brought someone else's need before Jesus, trusting in His compassion and power.

It's striking that Jesus, upon seeing their faith—not just the paralytic's—declared, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Their collective effort and belief were acknowledged and honored by the Lord. This reminds us that our faith, especially when expressed in community and for the benefit of others, is powerful and pleasing to God. We are called not just to carry our own burdens to Jesus, but to help carry the burdens of those around us, believing that He is able to heal, restore, and forgive.

Application Questions:

1. Think about the "roof" in your own life or the lives of those you know. What obstacles (physical, emotional, spiritual) sometimes prevent people from encountering Jesus' healing power?
2. Who in your life needs to be "carried" to Jesus right now, either through prayer, practical help, or by sharing the Gospel?

3. What are some practical ways you can demonstrate a proactive, persistent, and burden-bearing faith like these men in your community or church?
4. How might your individual or collective faith open doors for someone else to experience the forgiveness and healing that only Jesus can provide?