

Text: Matt. 9:1-8

Title: All Authority

Date: April 26 2026 CCBL

Intro: 50 years ago Robert Wood, a Dallas police officer, was murdered. Two men were together that night, Randall Adams and David Harris. Adams was an itinerant worker with no criminal record who hitched a ride with Harris after running out of gas. Harris had a criminal record and was traveling that day in a stolen car with stolen guns. Harris subsequently bragged to others that he had killed the policeman. However when detectives brought Harris for questioning, he blamed Adams and was given immunity in exchange for his testimony. Police, prosecutors, a false witness, and Harris all testified against Adams, insuring that an innocent man was sentenced to death. Adams remained in prison for 12 years until a documentary proved convincingly that Harris was the murderer. Within 6 months the Texas Court of Appeals overturned Adams conviction and he was released without compensation. Harris eventually confessed to the murder before he faced the death penalty for yet another murder.

Most of us have a love/hate relationship with authority. We rightly are angered and grieved when we see authority used for evil and we rightly rejoice when we see authority used for good.

Today we consider absolute authority and we want to rejoice that ...

Thesis: Jesus has all authority which he always wields uses for good, pursuing our hearts to convict and save.

Read:

Trans:

I. Jesus has all authority. Vv 6,8

Explan: Here is a crippled man, a crowd, Jesus, and the teachers of the law. Jesus, by saying, "Your sins are forgiven.", deliberately raises the issue authority. And the crowd recognizes that authority.

The key to understanding this scene is Jesus calling himself the Son of Man. It's his favorite title.

Everyone should know Daniel 7:13ff. 13"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Similarly Col. 1:16 says, "16For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

During the time between his resurrection and his return Jesus is using his authority to save, gather and keep his people. He does this as they suffer persecution and hardship under his authority. He gives us the privilege of sharing in his suffering so that we may share in his glory. Illus: Right now you have a question about who has authority in Iran. Similarly the Saudi princes are weighing in verbally with their authority against the Iranians. While all this legitimate concern about authority is going on, Jesus is exercising his authority to save his people in both countries. The Kingdoms of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the US will come and go. Yet Jesus is extending his Kingdom which is eternal.

Massive numbers of Iranians have come to Jesus in recent years! From only 500 Muslim-background believers in 1979, some estimates suggest the number is even greater than 1 million just in Iran alone. Large numbers of Persian people have also encountered the risen Christ outside of Iran. While hundreds of thousands of Iranians have indicated that they are Christian, only a fraction actively participate in church life. Even so, the Church in Persia has not grown this fast since the 7th century. In Iran, a person can receive a death sentence for apostasy (abandoning religious faith). Despite this, 50,000 mosques have closed in recent years as Iranians are disillusioned with both the regime and with Islam. This growth is a remarkable move of the Holy Spirit, with many signs and wonders, dreams and visions.

Joy in Saudi Arabia with illegal Bibles and praying in the Mosque in Medina.

In both places converts from Islam can be put to death. They are exercising authority for evil but Jesus is overcoming for good.

Applic:

1. Are you living in the peace of Christ? Many of us spend too much time fretting or thinking about social decay in America, or world politics, yet Jesus says seek first his Kingdom and righteousness and he will take care of the rest.
2. When many people in a society boldly follow Christ and live under his authority, it changes cultures and societies.

Trans: How does he go about this Kingdom building? With his authority ...

II. He convicts of evil in the heart. Vv 3-4

Explan: Jesus tells the man your sins are forgiven. The experts in the law are thinking within themselves, "This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins." Jesus is omniscient. He is the God man and he knows each person's heart. He addresses these men, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"

Illus:

George Palmer, a man from Australia, tells his story. When he was 7 his father died suddenly of a heart attack. He went running around the farm and screamed at God, "I hate you. I will never love you." At 17 he became the leader of a violent gang. He was filled with anger. At 17 he heard that evangelist Billy Graham would be preaching in Australia. He was filled with hatred for him and he and 9 others from his gang went to the Graham meeting in order to kill him. He

made zip guns and they spaced themselves around the pulpit waiting for the appeal to respond. They would then attack. As they were waiting, the LORD, spoke to him in his conscience, asking, "Why are you here?" He had an internal conversation with the LORD. "You took my dad. I hate you. Why should I love you? In those moments God revealed his love to George. He said he hadn't cried since he was 7 years old and he now wept and wept. He dropped his gun and ran to repent and trust in Christ. 9/10 turned to Jesus that night. As he gave this testimony, he was wearing his salvation army uniform, after decades of following Jesus.

Jesus was convicting these scribes and he still convicts by his Holy Spirit.

1. John 16:8 ff for unbelievers and prayer in evangelism.

2. Heb. 4:12ff For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Trans: With his authority ...

III. He strengthens the heart with healing and forgiveness. Vv 2, 6-7

Explan: Jesus sees the paralytic with faith and speaks to his heart. "Take heart my son, your sins are forgiven. He shows his authority to forgive by physical healing. "Get up. Take your mat and go home." Jesus' miracles demonstrate that he is the God's Son, fully God and fully man. This man who received physical healing went on to live his life in this world just like us, struggling with sin, facing other illnesses, and ultimately dying. Yet by faith he was already eternally alive in Christ, forgiven and at peace with God.

Jesus was crucified for sinners, buried, and raised on the third day. He ascended and is enthroned as King over all the nations. He poured out his Spirit and is at work in the world gathering his people. He convicts unbelievers of sin and then by his Spirit gives them a new heart to believe and be forgiven. Not only are they forgiven but also counted righteous, given a record of complete obedience before God. All this is a gift of God's gracious love and received by faith alone.

Illus: The man we already discussed illustrates this well. He was young man full of hatred, bitterness, and violence, intent on murder. Then by the gracious, loving work of God's Spirit he became a man forgiven and substantially healed. He in essence heard the same thing Jesus told this paralytic. Take heart my son, your sins are forgiven.

Applic:

1. Are you aligned with what Jesus is doing in the world by his authority? He is saving and gathering his people, his sheep who hear his voice and follow him from all the nations on earth. This includes Batesburg Leesville. Are your prayers, money, heart, and time aligned with this?

2. Are you, deep down in the heart, living under the banner of Jesus' word, "Take heart my son, my daughter, your sins are forgiven?" This is the love, declaration, and peace that will move you to align your whole life under his loving authority.

Summary: