

Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read Matt 8:1-9:34 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Beginning the Conversation

1. Given what you heard in the sermon, or at other times, how would you describe or explain the phrase, “the in-breaking of the kingdom of heaven”?
2. Have you heard modern day stories of miracles happening? If so, how has that impacted your faith?

Digging Deeper

1. Matthew summarizes Jesus’ ministry in 9:35 as, “Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness” (9:35; see also 4:23). How is this different from the ways we often think of “proclaiming the good news” today?
2. No less than ten times in these two chapters does Jesus demonstrate his authority by some sort of miraculous action, whether a healing, exorcism, or miracle. What does this say about Jesus? Who do you think he is? What do these stories say about God’s love for us?
3. There is a difference in worldview between how people in the first century and the twenty-first century understand sickness and disease. They saw it almost exclusively as a spiritual matter, while we tend to see it as a physical or material matter. Perhaps it is “both, and” rather than “either, or.” How do you understand the role of physicians and modern medicine in healing today?
4. While it is difficult to discount the existence of evil in the world today, some don’t know what to do with the NT presentation of evil as including *personal* evil (e.g., demons and the devil as well as the systemic evil that “the principalities and powers” represent). What do you think of the quote from C.S. Lewis: “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them” (*The Screwtape Letters*). How do you make sense of the presence and nature of evil today?
5. While the NT teaches the reality of personal evil in the world (e.g., Matt 4; 12:25-27; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Col 1:16; Eph 6:12; Rom 8:38-3), it is also clear that Jesus has authority over evil and has defeated evil through his death on the cross and his resurrection to new life. What impact does this have on how we understand Jesus teaching us to pray, “deliver us from the evil one” (Matt 6:13).
6. Jesus’ announcement of the kingdom of heaven in both words and deeds (e.g., healings and other miracles) is extended to all people, especially the outcasts, marginalized, and downtrodden (even tax collectors! Matt 9:9-13). What does this say about how we should minister today?

Living it Out

1. Throughout the Bible we see the efficacy of prayer for those who are sick (e.g., James 5:14-15). Who do you need to pray for this week?
2. In response to the recognition that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood,” Paul tells the Ephesians to put on the “full armour of God” (Eph 6: 12-18). Is there one piece that you need to “put on” this week?

The Authority of the King (8:1-9:34)



Discourse 2
Mission of the
Kingdom (8-10)

November 2, 2025
Pastor Tyler Williams
Greenfield Community Church

Introduction: The Birth of the King (1-2)



Discourse 1
Announcing the
Kingdom (3-7)



Discourse 2
Mission of the
Kingdom (8-10)



Discourse 3
Mystery of the
Kingdom (11-13)



Discourse 4
Community of the
Kingdom (14-18)



Discourse 5
Conflict of the
Kingdom (19-25)

Culmination: Last Supper, Death & Resurrection of the King (26-28)

The Authority of the King

Summary: "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness" (9:35; see also 4:23).



In-Breaking of the Kingdom

Every healing, every exorcism, and every miracle are

- signs of the in-breaking of the kingdom rule of heaven; and
- demonstrations of Jesus' authority.

In-Breaking of the Kingdom

1. Heals a man with leprosy (8:2-4).
2. Heals the Centurion's servant (8:5-13).
3. Heals Peter's mother-in-law (8:14-15).
4. Rebukes the storm (8:23-27).
5. Casts out demons from two possessed men (8:28-34).

"When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases'" (8:16-17).

In-Breaking of the Kingdom

6. Forgives and heals a paralyzed man (9:1-8).
7. Raises the synagogue leader's daughter (9:18-19, 23-26).
8. Heals the hemorrhaging woman (9:20-22).
9. Heals the two blind men (9:27-31).
10. Casts out a demon from the possessed mute man (9:32-34).

In-Breaking of the Kingdom

In the Gospel of Matthew

- 12 distinct references to Jesus healing people of various conditions;
- Six distinct places where Jesus casts out demonic spirits; and
- At least seven places where Jesus' ministry is summarized as including proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing.

In-Breaking of the Kingdom

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- signs of the in-breaking of the kingdom rule of heaven; and
- demonstrations of Jesus' authority.

Meaning & Significance

How do we understand these frequent healings, exorcisms, and miracles today?

- Recognize that there is a difference in worldview.
- Yet also have to recognize the reality of the spiritual realm.
- Spiritual discernment is required.

Meaning & Significance

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12).

Meaning & Significance

"At the heart of the gospel... is a conviction that the will of God cannot ultimately be defeated and that the victory over evil and death has already been won... ***But it is a victory, we are assured, that is yet to come.*** For now, we live amid a strife of darkness and light, falsehood and truth, death and life" (David Bentley Hart, *The Doors of the Sea*, 67).

Invitation

Jesus' announcement of the kingdom of heaven in both words and deeds is ***extended to all people.***

- It is often the outcasts, the marginalized, the downtrodden who ***believe and experience the kingdom***
- And it is often the outcasts, the marginalized, the downtrodden who ***accept and follow...*** like Matthew himself (9:9-13).