

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

They Ridiculed Him (Your Faith)

Matthew 9:18-26

Previously in Matthew:

Question of Fasting - the Bridegroom

Torn Garments, New Wine

Today:

I thought we were going to cruise through the rest of the chapter! I wanted to get to the blind men...

A rich ruler, a dead daughter, a woman without hope in this world, and Jesus, never too busy for any of them.

[Pray]

9:18

A ruler came and worshipped him

Ruler - not mentioned who he was here, but he was usually the man of honor.

Mark's gospel (Peter) tells us he's the ruler of the synagogue

Worshipped proskyneō

- to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence
- among the persians, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence
- in the NT by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication
- used of homage shown to men and beings of superior rank

I believe when this man worshipped, he knew Jesus was not like other men.

That Jesus had power and authority from above.

DGC Commentary notes Jesus didn't refuse the worship. Signifying who He was.

Angels and servants of God refuse to be worshipped throughout scripture.

**Worship is a necessary part of our relationship with God, and His with us
If we aren't worshipping Him, we don't recognize Him for who he really is**

Worship is more than song

(I'll give you more than a song, for a song in itself...)

Worship is a position

- **Of body**

[Rom 12:1 NKJV] 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service.

- **Of mind**

[Rom 12:2 NKJV] 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- **Of heart**

1 Sam 13:14:c The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart

- **Of Spirit**

[Phi 2:10-11 NKJV] 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What's your position before God?

What standing do you have in His presence?

[Psa 145:14 NKJV] 14 The LORD upholds all who fall, And raises up all [who are] bowed down.

So this man came to Jesus, bowed down in worship

But his asking was also an act of worship.

knowing that Jesus was the answer, whatever that answer would be.

My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live

The death of a child. The agony. The forever pain and loss.

Close friends losing their 1 year old son

We all prayed, but Jesus didn't answer this way. But it doesn't mean he can't or won't.

He just didn't this time.

**This man didn't ask for a healing, but a resurrection.
He asked for something not yet done by Jesus.
But something done by a prophet of God in the OT...**

Turn to 1st Kings 17:8-16

She's a widow - widows in those days

With a son, she's probably not very old

Probably hard to find a good man to marry a woman with a child

My late friend's wife, with four kids, God brought her a godly man. I know this because there was no way, after Tony, she'd ever marry some loser

**God brings her a man, but not to provide for her - for her to provide for.
Backwards!**

But, she's ready to die, with her son. The food is gone.

I sense a bit of drama in her attitude, but also, the fear and feeling of not knowing where your next meal is coming from, especially with children...

God provides with a miracle, but let's go on...

1st Kings 17:17-24

Son got sick, and died. No breath. Did he have some sort of lung infection? Pneumonia? Covid?

She lashes out at Elijah. The guilt of her sin weighing heavy on her. Thinking that God would take her son because of her sin. Maybe that's why her husband left. Maybe she was just acutely aware of her sinful state.

Many who lash out at the gospel are in such a place of pain, torment, guilt - from their own behavior.

Elijah cried out to God...and God heard the voice of Elijah

God wanted to answer this prayer. For the woman. For the boy. For Elijah. For Israel. And for us.

This is what convinced her he was a man of God. Not the miracle for the food. But the miracle of saving her beloved son's life. The boy was what was most important to her.

Who knows who will be impacted by your salvation. Your being brought back to spiritual life by Jesus. Maybe His life in you will be what tips the scales for those around you. The shock of

seeing YOU become radically changed by Jesus could be just the answer to wake them up to their need for Jesus.

Back to Matthew...

and the ruler worshiping and asking for Jesus to bring his daughter to life.

:19-22

They get up and go.

I love how Jesus doesn't have a schedule and just goes and does what's the Lord has for Him to do next. To meet one need. Then go meet another need. And then on the way to meet that need, be interrupted by another need, and still meet that need.

I run out of patience and obedience far too easily.

Woman with the flow of blood

Luke 8:45 tells the story in a little more detail, the crowds

12 years - no doctors, no medicine. Constant distress.

What's worse, by the law, she was spiritually unclean due to her health issue.

She said to herself...convincing herself to do it.

Preaching to herself that she would be healed by Jesus.

All throughout Psalms, David speaking to himself, saying to his soul, communing in his heart on his bed...the importance of telling yourself to trust in God when you don't feel like it. When you're upset. When you're hurt. Telling yourself to get up and keep going...because of God. To trust in what you already know.

But, with the right position. Right attitude. Not this prideful name and claim, demanding God do it, or setting yourself up to be let down. But genuine, simple, peaceful faith in the God who is able.

Be of good cheer

Why? She was sad. Depressed. Lonely. Desperate.
But not anymore.

**Jesus wasn't defiled by her unclean touch. The opposite.
She was cleaned by reaching out to Jesus in faith.**

Jesus credits her faith.

*We all know Matthew 17:20 faith the size of a mustard seed...
Luke 17:5 Lord, increase our faith!*

**Where some in Christianity get it wrong. It wasn't her faith itself,
as if it was an object to be possessed,
or large sum of faith to obtain what she needed from God**

But it was in whom her faith was placed.

A tiny hand reaching out to a loving God.

**And that was it. An interruption on the way. And 12 years of chronic, incurable
(at the time, at her budget) was healed.**

The season was over. She could go from weeping and mourning to joy and dancing.

And it wasn't a bother to interrupt Jesus on his way.

I have a feeling, maybe, like the woman at the well, it's part of why he got up to go and just didn't resurrect the daughter from afar.

Mark 5 tells us this

[Mar 5:35-37 NKJV] 35 While He was still speaking, [some] came from the ruler of the synagogue's [house] who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" 36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." 37 And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

:23-26

Into the house...flute players...noisy crowd

It was the funeral.

Flutes, at a funeral? Was the guy a hippie?

Again, late friend Pastor Tony...

Ancient or even middle-eastern funerals even today

The more people wailing, the more noise made, the worse the death or the more important the person

In fact: there were people who were professional wailers, singers

**So the ruler's family is putting on a big show of grief.
But the ruler himself, the crushed dad, he left. He ran to Jesus.**

**Jesus basically tells them chill out, she's sleeping.
But was she sleeping? No. She was dead.
So they mocked him "laughed him to scorn"**

They didn't believe it. They didn't know who He was or what power God had given him.

What does Jesus do? He kicks them out!

It's one thing to not have faith, it's another to mock God.

God has no problem kicking a mocker out.

Putting a scorner outside

...weeping and gnashing of teeth...

But in a way...can you blame them? They could be pros, go to funerals day in and day out...jaded by death and the sorrow it brings.

But this was different.

At least two times Jesus compares death to sleeping:

- This time
- Lazarus
- 1 cor 15:6, Paul says some have fallen asleep

The point with this language, for the believer, is in part:

- Death to God, and resurrection, is about as hard as waking someone from sleep
My friend Terry back in the day
- That death to a believer, is nothing to be feared, but instead should be embraced
As one might do after a long, hard, day, the feeling of crawling into bed, knowing rest is coming
- That death, for the believer, is rest (babies learning to sleep, and not be afraid)
- What it's not: is a foundation for some doctrine of "soul sleep" - to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord 2 Cor 5:8

Mark tells us some more

[Mar 5:40-43 NKJV] 40 And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those [who were] with Him, and entered where the child was lying. 41 Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." 42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years [of age]. And they were overcome with great amazement. 43 But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that [something] should be given her to eat.

Brings the mom and dad and a few of the disciples in...

As a parent, seeing your child...

As a disciple, standing back...such an intimate moment, an outsider, stranger's house

The gentleness of his voice and touch...no need for screaming, pomp, circumstance.

This is the Spirit of God.

She wakes up. They give her food.

Jesus has a thing about eating...and after death. Proving she's alive, healthy, not a ghost.

Mark says that Jesus told everyone not to tell.

But who could keep that kind of a secret! People would eventually see the girl walking around.

There was no burial.

There's something about seeing the fruit of God's work.

The whole land heard. Word travels fast!

When God works, the world hears.

[1Th 1:8 NKJV] 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

**We all have faith. The question is:
Not how much
Not how big
But in whom?**

Where is your faith? Is it in Jesus? Is it in His word?

The difference between...

- seeing God work and not
- sleeping and death
- fear and faith
- The world and the church

Is believing.

[Rom 10:17 NKJV] 17 So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.