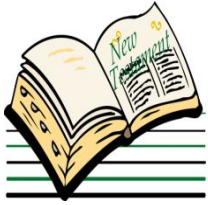


Sermon Notes



Title: "The Authentication of Christ's Authority"

Text: Matthew 8:23-9:8

Theme: Jesus authenticates His power and authority by performing unparalleled works of power and authority over the seen and the unseen worlds.

I. Christ Authenticates His Authority and Power over

_____ (8:23-27)

II. Christ Authenticates His Authority and Power over the

_____ (8:23-34)

III. Christ Authenticates His Authority and Power over

_____ (9:1-8)

IV. Applications

A. Live your life having _____ in Christ who _____ all the _____ and _____ that ever happen.

B. The _____ is greater than the _____ of _____.

C. The _____ of _____ requires a power and authority just as powerful and effective as the power over _____ and the _____.

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. What caused the disciples to fear for their lives (8:24a)?
2. What was Jesus doing during this terrible situation (8:24b)?
3. What did Jesus say to his disciples who were afraid (8:26)?
4. What happened that caused the disciples to marvel (8:26b)?
5. Whom did Jesus meet upon arriving on the other side of the lake? Where were they living? What were they like? (8:28)?
6. Who was in control of these whom Jesus met? What was their complaint? What did they ask Jesus to do to them? (8:28-31)?
7. What happened when the demons left the men (8:32)?
8. How did the townspeople react to what happened (8:34)?
9. When Jesus returned home who came to him for healing (9:2a)?
10. What did Jesus say to the man that disturbed others in the crowd who were there (9:2b)?
11. Of what did the scribes in attendance accuse Jesus because of this? Why? (9:3)?
12. How did Jesus authenticate the claim that upset these people (9:6-7)? How did the crowds react (9:8)?
13. What is one of the scariest situations you have ever faced? Looking back, how do you perceive God's presence and power at work?
14. Sometimes God's people have perished in instances of natural disasters. How do you understand God's power in such cases? Is Matthew giving us a blanket promise that God will always deliver His people from natural tragedies? What is the purpose of this episode?
15. What is your view about demonic possession in today's world? Why do you think most of us have not witnessed demonic possession in daily life?
16. Should we fear the work of the devil? Why or why not?
17. Why did Christ's claim to forgive sins give rise to the charge of blasphemy from the scribes?
18. If Jesus has the power and the authority to forgive sins, what does this say about who He is?
19. What brought you to the place in your life where you felt the need to have your sins forgiven?
20. How does the Gospel itself authenticate the power and authority of Christ?