

Lesson 9 – 29 September 2010

Proofs of Jesus' Deity

Lesson Scope: [Matthew 8 and 9](#).

Lesson Focus

Most of the events in these chapters (except Matthew 8:23-34: 9:35-37) occurred at Capernaum.

Jesus had just finished the Sermon on the Mount, the constitution of the New Testament. The multitudes, men from all over the country (Matthew 4:25). were astonished at His teachings. Although He had "taught them as one having authority." that authority must ultimately be established by more than words. Therefore it seems significant that Jesus immediately returned to His work (Matthew 4:24) of miracles and healing. Jesus said later, in John 14:11 "Believe me for the very works' sake." He was indeed establishing His authority as the King, the Messiah, and the eternal Son of God.

Jesus' deity is clearly taught in the Scriptures and is basic to the entire provision of redemption. In John I the confession of His deity is essential to our receiving this redemption (1 John 4:15).

Christ's identity is revealed by His words and His work. Jesus is "a man approved of God among you by wonders and miracles and signs." Note that this lesson covers the same scope and even some of the same text as the next lesson #10 Matthew emphasizes the proofs of Jesus' deity. The next lesson focuses on the response of men to these proofs. As you study this lesson, keep your focus on the many infallible Scriptural proofs of Jesus' deity. Remember, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

Lesson Aim: To present proofs that Jesus is the divine Son of God.

Theme Verse: [Hebrews 1:3](#). "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power. When he had by himself purged our sins, [he] sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Lesson Text:

The Great Physician

[Matthew 8:5-8](#)

And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, ⁶And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. ⁷And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. ⁸The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

[Matthew 8:13-17](#)

And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. ¹⁴And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. ¹⁵And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

¹⁶When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: ¹⁷That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

The Ruler of Nature

[Matthew 8:23-27](#)

And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. ²⁴And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. ²⁵And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. ²⁶And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. ²⁷But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

The Forgiver of Sins

[Matthew 9:1-8](#)

And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. ²And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. ³And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. ⁴And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? ⁵For whether is eas-

ier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? ⁶But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. ⁷And he arose, and departed to his house. ⁸But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

The Prince of Life

[Matthew 9:18-19](#)

While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live. ¹⁹And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples.

[Matthew 9:23-26](#)

And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, ²⁴He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. ²⁵But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose. ²⁶And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.

Questions for Study

The Great Physician

1. What statements of Jesus to the centurion gave witness that He is divine?
2. How did Jesus' dealings prove His divinity?
3. How did Jesus' deeds in Matthew 8:16 fulfill Isaiah 53:4?

The Ruler of Nature

4. From Matthew 8:23-27, list proofs that Jesus is the Ruler of nature.

The Forgiver of Sins

5. How did Jesus prove that He has power to forgive sins?
6. What other proofs from these verses show that Jesus is the Son of God?

The Prince of Life

7. How did the words "the maid ... sleepeth- indicate Jesus' power?

Analyzing the Passage

Jesus power to heal had no limitations. Natural elements, bodily diseases, the guilt of sin and even death yielded to His Word. All levels of society, from the centurion to the demon-possessed, received the ministry of His

spoken word or gentle touch. Jesus' touch (Matthew 8:15) was a manifestation of divine power as the Son of God. Any claim of man to duplicate that power is truly blasphemous.

The fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in 8:17 must be carefully understood. Some would use this verse to substantiate the idea that redemption heals the body. Note that Matthew clearly states that this Scripture was fulfilled at this time provisionally in Christ before the cross. (Compare Isaiah 53:4-5 and 1 Peter 2:24.)

In Matthew 9:2-6 Jesus emphasized that the spiritual takes precedence over the physical. His power over the physical was positive evidence of His power over the spiritual.

The certain ruler (Matthew 9:18) was Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue (Mark 5:22). The minstrels in his house were players of flutelike instruments, Instruments, and "people making a noise" were professional mourners wailing for hire rather than in genuine grief.

In Matthew 9:24 Jesus was not denying that the maid was physically dead. Rather He was clarifying that physical death ushered in the rest of the soul.

Principles and Applications

The Great Physician

1. As the Son of God, Jesus could merely speak the word and accomplish His purpose (Matthew 8:13-16). "For he spake, and it was done: he commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalm 33:9). Jesus upholds all things by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3). By His word all things function and are kept in place. Jesus responded to the centurion's declaration of faith "Speak the word only." -O wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord"! "The words I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63)

2. The power of Jesus' healing touch identifies Him as the Son of God (Matthew 8:15). Only a moment of contact, but what healing virtue flowed from the hand of the master Physician! His touch was sometimes an extension of His word, at other times without a word. Only God can heal in such a quiet, powerful manner manifested in His Son. Jesus, the Prince of Life, has power over death, both physical and spiritual. "We had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead" (2 Corinthians 1:9). Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25).

3. Because He is divine, Jesus has absolute mastery over evil spirits. (Matthew 8:16). Because these spirits left their first estate, God put them in reservation for judgment (Jude 6). Jesus, simply by His word, wielded an authority that they were unable to resist. Sometimes they even cried out in recognition before He spake any word to them. Because Jesus is divine, He is also able to discern "what manner of spirit [we] are of (Luke 9:55).

4. Jesus' compassion for the infirmities of men offers proof of His deity (Matthew 8:17). This Scripture is one of many specific prophecies that Jesus fulfilled perfectly, proving Him to be the Messiah. His compassion for human suffering is a powerful demonstration of "the kindness and love of God our Saviour (Titus 3:4). He has "compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way" (Hebrews 5:2). He notes with sympathy the weak and heavy laden, as well as the "bruised reed" and "smoking flax" (Matthew 12:20). Jesus, the Son of God, is touched with the feeling of our infirmities (Hebrews 4:14-15). He Sees every spiritual need and moves in compassion to heal.

The Ruler of Nature

5. As the Son of God Jesus has complete control over the elements of nature (Matthew 8:26-27). At Creation by His word "the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water- (2 Peter 3:5). By His word came the flood of waters on the earth in Noah's day. By His word came the wind that assuaged those waters (Genesis 8: 1). As Creator, Jesus could sleep in the boat while the storm raged, since the winds posed no threat to Him. Believing this truth should help each of us in any kind of storm today to be able to sing, "Keep me safe 'til the storm passes by."

The Forgiver of Sins

6. Because He is divine, Jesus has the authority to forgive sins (Matthew 9:2-6). He is just and the Justifier, the man Christ Jesus, the Mediator between God and man, "in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14). "Bless the LORD ... who forgiveth all thine iniquities' (Psalm 103:2-3). Woe to any man or church entity who claims such authority! "But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared" (Psalm 130:4).

The Prince of Life

7. Jesus' power to raise the dead gives unmistakable proof of His deity (Matthew 9:25). To most people of Jesus' day, this was a phenomenon unheard of in Israel. But it was more than a phenomenon. It was the power of

God manifested in His Son, Jesus, the Prince of Life, who has power over death, both physical and spiritual. "We had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead" (2 Corinthians 1:9). Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25).

Important Teachings

1. As the Son of God, Jesus could merely speak the word and accomplish His purpose (Matthew 8:13-16).
2. The power of Jesus' healing touch identifies Him as the Son of God (Matthew 8:15).
3. Because He is divine, Jesus has absolute mastery over evil spirits (Matthew 8:16).
4. Jesus' compassion for the infirmities of men offers proof of His deity (Matthew 8:17).
5. As the Son of God, Jesus has complete control over the elements of nature (Matthew 8:26-27).
6. Because He is divine, Jesus has the authority to forgive sins (Matthew 9:2-6).
7. Jesus' power to raise the dead gives unmistakable proof of His deity (Matthew 9:25).

Answers to Questions

1. What statements of Jesus to the centurion gave witness that He is divine?

"I will come and heal him" (Matthew 8:7) and "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee" (Matthew 8:13). Note the timing of each answer. The phrases "I will" and "so shall it be" ring with divine authority.

2. How did Jesus' healings prove His divinity?

The fact is that all were healed, whether by His word or by His touch. No earthly physician can claim 100 percent effectiveness. Really, since Jesus is divine, comparisons with men are futile.

3. How did Jesus' deeds in Matthew 8:16 fulfill Isaiah 53:4?

Some would use this Scripture to substantiate the idea that redemption heals the body. But the healings in this context were of a spiritual nature. In 8:16, Matthew focuses specifically on those who were demon possessed.

Jesus, in His compassion, cast out the devils with His word and healed those who were sick in this spiritual condition. In this way He bore their grief and carried their sorrows. That the provisions of the cross for sin are clearly in focus is substantiated by such Scriptures as the remainder of Isaiah 53:4: "yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted" and Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:24. Note that Matthew clearly stated that this part of Scripture was fulfilled provisionally in Christ before Calvary.

4. From Matthew 8:23-27, list proofs that Jesus is the Ruler of nature.

Jesus was able to rest in sleep even when the ship was covered with waves. He was able, with a rebuke, to still the tempest and bring a great calm upon the sea.

5. How did Jesus prove that He has power to forgive sins? Jesus proved His power by healing the sick man.

6. What other proofs from these verses show that Jesus is the Son of God? Jesus knew the thoughts of the scribes who were present. He also "saw" the faith of the sick man and of those who carried him.

7. How did the words "the maid ... sleepeth" indicate Jesus' power?

Jesus said, "I am ... the life" (John 14:6). He has power over death itself. Death to Him is as easily ended as natural sleep. Jesus proved His words by simply raising the maid to life. Belief, not scorn, brings understanding of these things.

Research Guide

1. Study the parallel accounts in Mark 2-5; Luke 5:16-26; 8:41-56.

2. In *Doctrines of the Bible*, read "His Attributes and Works" in the chapter titled "God the Son."

Summarizing the Lesson

Ere the blue heavens were stretched abroad.
From everlasting was the Word;
With God He was, the Word was God,
And must divinely be adored.

By His own pow'r were all things made;
By Him supported. all things stand;
He is the whole creation's head,
And angels fly at His command.

Mortals with joy beheld His face -
The' eternal Father's only Son:
How full of truth! how full of grace!
When thro' His eyes the Godhead shone.

—Isaac Watts