

Sermon Reflections

Unmatched Authority (Part 1) (Matthew 8:18 - 9:8)

Summary: Surrender your rights to Jesus' unmatched and better authority.

Open Discussion: If we read and understand that Jesus has all authority in Heaven and on Earth, why then do we have such a difficult time submitting to His authority?

By His Unmatched Authority ...

1. Jesus Commands His Disciples (vv. 18-22)

- Do you find it odd or unloving of Christ to reject the crowd following Him? What can we learn from Christ's wisdom and intentionality here?
- What kind of Christianity does your life present and offer to others? Do you give others a true picture of the hard road to follow Christ?
- The life that Christ calls us to is full of uncomfortable and hard things. Christ is worthy of nothing short of our "all." What in your life have you had to let go of as you've surrendered your life to Christ?
- Review Daniel 7:13-14. With the hardships of the Christian walk that Christ calls us to, how does this passage encourage you, knowing that Christ is the Son of Man as referenced here?
- 2 Timothy 3:12 tells us that if we desire to follow Christ, then we will be persecuted; it will be hard. Consider Paul's statement in light of Christ's persecution on our behalf.

2. Jesus Controls His Creation (8:23-27)

- What is the significance and encouragement of Jesus being asleep during the storm?
- Jesus' concerns and mission go far beyond the perils of this human life. He is ultimately concerned with our eternal state. What is it that troubles you? How can your concerns change when you start thinking with an eternal mindset?
- Ephesians 2:1-5 gives a beautiful display of the gospel. There are a few parallels with Matthew here. Knowing that it is God alone who brings us salvation, why then do we often fail to find comfort and security in Him with all things? Are you dominated by faith or by fear?
- Read Psalm 89:9 and Psalm 107:28-31 along with the passage in Matthew. Jesus Christ proves that He has unmatched authority. He is able to command nature and it listens. He is most definitely worthy of our lives. Will you take up your cross daily to follow Him? How will you do that?