

Teach -In No. 6 The Gospel of Matthew

In this teach-in we are going to look at the ministry of Jesus in a much fuller measure than previously.

John 14 v 12-14

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

Jesus had and still has healing power. In Chapters 8 and 9 of Matthew's gospel there are largely 10 miracles of healing, which demonstrates two things:

1. Jesus met the needs of the people.
2. He was and still is able to meet everyone's needs today.

Wherever Jesus went, something happened and He had many people following Him, multitudes, in fact were interested in seeing what He did. Not surprisingly after all the miracles that he made! However, He had difficulty in finding people that would be like Him, in character and in action. He is still looking for men and women who will follow in His footsteps, which will only happen as we have a complete and utter trust in the word of God.

Jesus emphasised this in the following way:

Matthew 8 v 2-3

And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Jesus response was *I am willing* and His response still is *I am willing*. He was and is prepared to touch even outsiders like the Leper. The key in this case was the confidence that the Leper had in the Lord Jesus Christ. Do we often have as much confidence? Jesus will meet our *needs*, not our *wants*. We are sometimes called to suffer, often it's God's way of healing, healing of our spirit and soul as well as our physical bodies. He is interested in how much we are willing to walk in the truth.

We can see the same principle in the following scripture.

3 John v 2-4

For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

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The way that we think will influence the decisions that we make in our daily lives. If our thinking is in line with the truth of God's word, we shall prosper. On the other hand, if our thinking is based on our circumstances or our own concepts, then we will not see the power of God's Holy Spirit operating in our lives. Jesus is ready, are we?

The second thing that Jesus demonstrates is the whole question of authority.

Matthew 8 v 5-13

And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that very moment.

The centurion recognised that He had the power because He was under authority. This is a key factor in being able to live the Christian life in victory. To be under authority is to do what the author of our faith tells us to do.

John 8 v 31-32

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." It's not just a question of doing what other people may tell you, although that is very much a part of it, but it is reading and heeding what God's word says all of the time. If we should fail then, by God's grace we can repent and start again.

Many Christians do not have faith in God's word because they have had bad experiences of authority and submission, this is because most of us want to rule over rather than submit to God's order of doing things. The reason for conflict is that we so often live out of the old corruptible seed, which leads to disputes and wars.

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James 4 v 1-10

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

We may need healing or deliverance from being unable to submit ourselves to all authorities, even to the unjust ones that are represented by worldly people.

Romans 13 v 1-7

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

1 Timothy 2 v 1-2

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

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1 Peter 2 v 13-20

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. My conclusion is that the life and the peace of God comes by being obedient to His word, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide me into all truth, not just in areas that suit me. The power of God is available, Jesus is willing to heal me, but am I as willing to submit to Him?

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