

Matthew Lesson 14

Yeshua taught as one who had authority, and last week Matthew showed us how He continued to show anyone who really wanted to know, that He is the Messiah. He did this by walking us through Yeshua's compassion and healing of the leperous man, and the Gentile's servant and the casting out of demons, and at His word the storm was calmed. All could see that there is no realm that Yeshua does not command.

1. What do these miracles teach us about our daily lives? How do they impact us today?

Today we will see Yeshua show His power over sin and death.

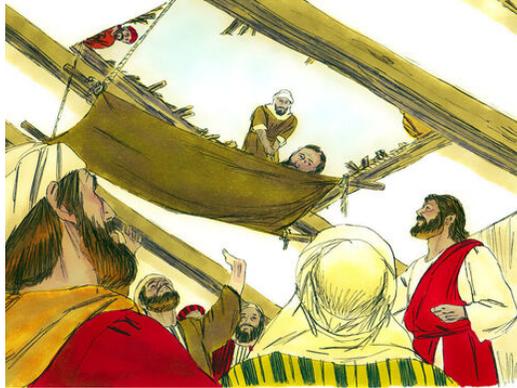
Matthew 9:1,2 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, **Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.**

First of all, notice that Yeshua does this right out in the open for all to see and hear. Luke gives us some details about who is in the crowd of people listening and watching.

Luke 5:17-20 Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them. Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with *his* bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. When He saw their faith, He said to him, **Man, your sins are forgiven you.**

We see the great interest in this man, Yeshua. The Pharisees and teachers of the law had come from all over to observe what He was doing.

Did they feel threatened? Had they come to find the Messiah?



What is the reaction of these leaders and teachers of the people when Yeshua “**saw their faith and pronounced, your sins are forgiven!**”?

Can you SEE faith? Of course, Yeshua can look right through us and know if we have faith, but the faith of these men was obvious to all. You don't go up on a roof carrying a paralyzed man, tear a roof open and lower the man down, if you don't have faith that Yeshua will heal him.

Through our actions, faith can be visible.

1. What actions do we do that cause others to know that we have faith in Yeshua - just actions, not words....?

Everyone was expecting to see a physical healing, but now Yeshua forgives the man's sins!

Matthew 9:3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, This fellow is blaspheming.

They knew only G-d can forgive sins, so without using the word, “I am G-d,” **but** His words acted on sin - He forgave sin without hesitation !

Matthew 9:4-7 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, **Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Get up and walk? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.** So he said to the paralyzed man, **Get up, take your mat and go home.** Then the man got up and went home.

Wow! This should leave us breathless! Yeshua knew their thoughts! **Nothing is unknown to Him** - He is the **ruler of heaven and earth** - He created man. **We cannot**

hide our thoughts from Him, and He knows what we need before we even ask. All of this goes together!

The men who lowered the paralyzed man through the roof **proved their faith by their actions; Yeshua is proving He is G-d by His actions!**

Matthew 9:7,8 And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

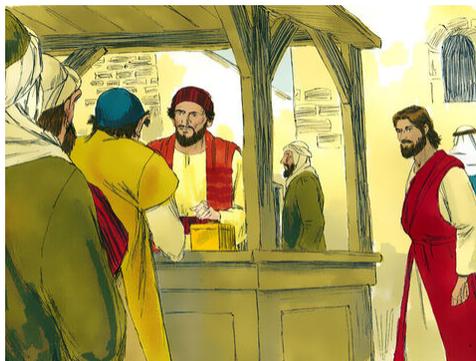
2. What does this mean, "who had given such authority to men"? Men is plural here, it doesn't say to a man.

John 20:23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

This is the power given to men! The Lord gave us the power to forgive and our giving or withholding vibrates in heaven. He gave us the power and the responsibility!

Matthew 6:14,15 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive yours.

3. What are your thoughts about having this kind of power and responsibility to forgive or not?



Matthew 9:9-12 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, **Follow Me**. So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, **Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.**

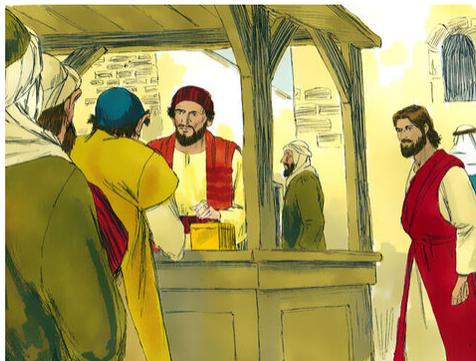
It is so interesting that Matthew uses himself as an example here of who Yeshua calls to be His, because Matthew is a hated tax collector. Tax collectors in that day were in cahoots with Rome, and they made their living by overcharging and extorting fees that were over and above what the actual taxes were. Therefore people hated them.

There is also an irony with Matthew's name which in Hebrew means "gift of G-d." Matthew became a gift when he yielded his life and his sin to the Lord.

4. What is the lesson for us in how Matthew, a hated tax collector, became a gift? How do we apply this to the way we judge other people?

We also see that Matthew throws a party. He probably wants his "unsavory" friends to see and know the Messiah also. But the Pharisees have a problem with the guests at this party. It was said among the teachers of the day.....

"If tax collectors entered a house, all within it became unclean. People may not be believed if they say, 'We entered but we touched nothing.'" And this was the standard to which they were holding Yeshua. When they saw Yeshua eating with the unclean, they were judging, but Yeshua says, these are the ones who need to be cleansed; these are the ones who need help.



When they saw Yeshua eating with the unclean, they were judging, but Yeshua says, these are the ones who need to be cleansed; these are the ones who need help.

Yeshua reminds of the principle of the Prophets who said,

Hosea 6:6 I want compassion rather than animal sacrifice.

Matthew 9:12,13 When Jesus heard that (the question about why Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners) He said to them, **Those who are well have no need of a**

physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means; I desire mercy and not sacrifice.....

The dinner at Matthew's house shows us that Matthew could see this heart in Yeshua - now he wanted his friends to see Yeshua's heart of compassion too.

But not some of John's disciples come to Yehsua saying....

Matthew 9:14-17 Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?

Matthew 9:15 And Jesus said to them, Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

Yeshua is obviously referring to a Jewish wedding and alluding to Himself and the time that would come when He would be gone physically from the earth. While the bridegroom is with the people, they do not fast, but when the bridegroom went away, then the people would fast.

He is giving them a new way to think of fasting and when fasting and mourning are appropriate.

In Revelation we see a time coming, and I dare say we are in that time even now, when we will do both fast, mourn and rejoice.....

Revelation 18:10-11 Standing at a distance, for fear of her torment, they will say, "Oh no! The great city! Bavel, the mighty city! In a single hour your judgment has come!" The world's businessmen weep and mourn over her, because no one is buying their merchandise any more-

Moving down to verse 17.....

Revelation 18:17-20 Such great wealth- in a single hour, ruined!" All the ship masters, passengers, sailors and everyone making his living from the sea stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke as she burned, "What city was like the great city?" And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, saying, "Oh no! The great city! The abundance of her wealth made all the

ship owners rich! In a single hour she is ruined!" Rejoice over her, heaven!
Rejoice, people of God, emissaries and prophets! For in judging her, God has
vindicated you.

Yeshua is teaching them to look at things from a different perspective than they have before, not that there are not appropriate times for mourning and fasting.

NOW Torah must be views through the lense of the Messiah who has come, the work He does through the cross and the fact that He has brought the kingdom of heaven - it has arrived.

He is in NO WAY saying that the Torah is defective, He is saying now it must be understood from the correct understanding and the new arrival of the kingdom and the Messiah.

The kingdom of heaven is not coming to say that the Torah is wrong, so the new cloth shows us the concern over Yeshua not coming to begin a "new religion" but a new understanding of G-d's instructions. The "old wineskin" doesn't need all new wine, because the new is not canceling the old, it is bringing the Messiah and His work.

The "new cloth" had to be washed and shrunk so that it would not tear the Torah apart, but add to its strength by restoring its true meaning! This is what the LORD says

Jeremiah 6:16 Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask for the ancient paths: 'Where is the good way' Then walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it!

Matthew 9:18-26 While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live. So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples.

But before Yeshua even reached the house we are told.....

Matthew 9:20-22 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. For she said to herself, If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well. But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, **Take courage**, daughter, your faith has healed you. And

the woman was cured from that very hour. (last verse from Berean Bible Translation.)

Yeshua is the only one to give this command, "Take courage", and He does so seven times, two of these times are in Matthew chapter 9.

He says, **Take courage** son; your sins are forgiven - (Matt. 9:2).

And, Daughter, **take courage**; your faith has made you well. (Matt. 9:22)

Take courage (#2293- **tharseo** from tharsos) used here does not mean to whistle as you walk in the dark to help you feel brave,

Take courage (#2293 - tharseo from tharsos) used here does not mean to whistle as you walk in the dark to help you feel brave,

but it means to have deep genuine boldness to the extent that you literally have **NO FEAR!**

It means to have such confidence and firmness of purpose in the face of danger or testing that your heart is emboldened. This is a Hebrew idiom meaning to be encouraged, hope, have courage, be strong

**Why do you think Yeshua is the only one to give this command?

Matthew 9:23-26 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. And the report of this went out into all that land.



Yeshua says she is not dead, but sleeping.

Is He referring to the fact that **her spirit has left her body, but she is alive in heaven?**

He is seeing this from a different perspective than the mourners who had come to mourn the girl's passing. Notice, again, Yeshua does not hesitate to touch a dead body but takes her hand, and the girl arose! His compassion overrules the concern of becoming unclean.

Yeshua has just shown His power of death!

4. What do we learn from this kind of compassion? How does His power over death help us to "Take courage"?

Matthew 9:27-29 When Jesus departed from there two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, Son of David have mercy on us?

These two blind men could have called Yeshua anything. They could have called Him Rabbi, or healer, but they called Him Son of David! Why would Matthew bring attention to this? This title takes us directly back to Yeshua's genealogy in

Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.

The blind men were confirming the Messianic identity by calling Yeshua the Son of David. Why would this title matter?

2 Samuel 7:8,12,13 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

The leaders would know these verses and immediately know that these men - though blind - are calling Yeshua this one - by saying Son of David!

In Jewish commentaries it says: It is likewise a common rabbinic term for the Messiah who needs to be a direct descendant of King David and therefore called Mashiach ben David/Messiah Son of David (Tractate Sukkah 52a)

Matthew 9:28-30a And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this? They said to Him, Yes, Lord. Then He touched their eyes, saying, According to your faith let it be to you. And their eyes were opened.

Now the blind have been healed.

Matthew 9:32-34 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying It was never seen like this in Israel. But the Pharisees said, He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.

At this point, what is NOT said is critical. We are not told that Yeshua ever responds to the criticism and even blasphemy of the statement made in this verse that He casts out demons by the ruler of demons -

6. What do we learn from Yeshua's silence? How do we apply this to our lives? Is this always the way to handle wrong accusations?

Isaiah 35:5,6a Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing.

Isaiah 26:19a Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!

Yeshua's works PROCLAIM who He is!

I encourage you to read all of Isaiah 26 and consider it both historically and prophetically. It was for then, and it is for now!

How does all of this cause you to Take Courage?