

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

96- Jesus' Authority Over Disease; Disabilities; Demons; and Death- Part 7

Church May 05, 2024

Matthew 9:27-38

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

28 When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."

30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them: "See that no one knows about this!"

31 But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.

32 As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him.

33 After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

34 But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

38 "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

This morning, we are *rejoining* our verse-by-verse “Journey” through the **Gospel of Matthew** and I want to remind you of a few things before we get into the Exposition of this Passage.

Before Jesus called Matthew to Salvation- he was a great Sinner- a Jewish Tax-collector, who had betrayed the Jewish people by purchasing a Tax license from the despised Roman Government so he could impose confiscatory Taxes on his Jewish brethren on everything from land to how many axles they had on their carts. And Matthew had hired brutal thugs to go around and threaten the Jews, who couldn’t pay- even resorting to Violence- including beatings and even death. Matthew would then give a portion of that money to Rome- which would help to finance the brutal Occupation of the Jewish Land.

So, after Jesus called Matthew to Salvation (**Matthew 9:9**)- this man had a heart for his own people. And so, History tells us that Matthew’s Gospel Record was written *first*; it was written originally in Hebrew; and it was written in a “Story” format- which was how the ancient Jews discussed God.

You see, before Moses codified the Law of God- the Word of God was handed down from one Generation to the next by word of Mouth. So, Fathers told their Children the Story about Abraham; Noah; Isaac; Jacob; and Joseph; and how God had moved on them.

But beginning with Moses- God’s Word was written down. And now that Jesus has come and lived and died and risen again- Matthew joins with the other 39 human writers to give us this part of the Inspired; Inerrant; and Infallible Word of the living God.

Now Matthew had something very specific in mind when he wrote all 28 Chapters of this Record of the Birth; Life; Ministry; Death; Resurrection; and Ascension of the only sinless Man who ever lived. And so, he did NOT “take dictation” directly from God the Holy Spirit. Matthew also did NOT experience God taking his hand to write each word. That is NOT how we came to have this Gospel Record. Matthew wrote in his own Language; using his own Logic; his own phrases; and his own colloquialisms. And *somehow* (and we really don’t know how), God the Holy Spirit “moved” on Matthew; and so *superintended* what he wrote- that it is the accurate and trustworthy Word of the one, true, and living God.

And because that’s true- my Goal is NOT to “*eisegete*” or to “*put into*” or *impose* my own views, thoughts, or ideas onto these words. My Goal is to “*take out of*”- or to *exegete* what God the Holy Spirit “moved” on Matthew to write down.

Now as I have told you many times, if we could walk up and ask Matthew what he meant by what he wrote- that would solve the Problem. But Matthew, along with the other 39 human writers of the 66 Books of sacred Writ, are all dead. And so, all that we have are the words that he used; and the Context in which he

used them. And so, my Job is to go into the original languages of the Bible- Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek; apply the “rules of Grammar” of each of those languages; and then strive to arrive at the correct Context of each verse or Passage- so I can answer three Questions:

1. What does that verse or passage *say*?
2. What does that verse or passage *mean* by what it says?
3. How can we *apply* the Truth of that verse or passage to our daily Lives- all to the Glory of God?

Now keep in mind that Matthew is telling us the “*Story of Jesus*”. And he is telling this perfect Story by quoting what Jesus said and by relating what Jesus did while He was here on the earth. And here in the Passage that was just read to us- we see that Jesus was demonstrating His absolute Authority over four Issues:

1. Disease
2. Disabilities
3. Demons
4. Death

... and that means that the Context of this Passage is NOT that Matthew (or Jesus) was giving us a “Pattern” or a “Formula” of how *we* are to heal the Sick; cast out demons; and raise the Dead- so *we* can do what Jesus did.

No, in this Passage- Matthew was, very narrowly, telling us that Jesus manifested the very *same* Authority over these common Maladies as God Himself.

And so, by putting this series of powerful Miracles in his gospel Record- Matthew was *unmistakably* demonstrating that Jesus is, in fact, God Almighty in human Flesh. So, the Context of this Passage is NOT about how much spiritual Authority *we* can have (as long as we have enough Faith)- but how much Jesus had- so we may believe and put our Faith and Hope and Trust in the Lord Christ and in His finished Work.

And in proving His Authority- Jesus was conclusively demonstrating that He was:

1. The long-awaited Messiah
2. Immanuel (God with us)

... and by teaching us perfect Theology in **Matthew 5,6 &7**- Jesus was also demonstrating that He was the 2nd Moses.

Now look again at the first six words of verse 27:

As Jesus went on from there ...

So, after Jesus demonstrated His absolute Authority over Death by raising the daughter of Jairus, the Synagogue Official, from the Dead- Matthew tells us that Jesus, **“went on from there”**

Now remember, everywhere Jesus went- He had this huge crowd following Him. And as he went into Jairus’ home- back in verse 23- Jesus had left the crowd outside. But now as He was leaving Jairus’ house- the crowd had rejoined Jesus.

So, Jesus leaves Jairus’ house and as He **“went on from there”**- this great crowd of “Students” or “Learners” began to follow Him again. And it wasn’t long before Jesus ran right into the next Event that Matthew wrote down for us in **Matthew 9:27b-31:**

27 ... two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

28 When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."

30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them: "See that no one knows about this!"

31 But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.

Now as best as I can determine, the **“house”** that Jesus entered into in verse 28- is the house where He was staying *before* He went out and demonstrated His absolute Authority. So, in verse 27b, we read:

... two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

Now this is the *first* time in Matthew’s gospel Record that another Jew called Jesus, the “Son of David”. Back in the very first verse of this Record- Matthew himself wrote,

The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

... and then in **Matthew 1:20**, the Apostle wrote,

But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

... but here in **Matthew 9:27**, this is the *first* time that one of Matthew's Jewish brethren called Jesus, the "*Son of David*". And that shows us that this Title was on the minds of many of the Jews of the 1st Century.

So, from the Time that God first made the Covenant with David (**2Samuel 7:12&13**), the expectation of the fulfillment of that Covenant combined with the expectation of the Messiah- allowed the Jews to see the "*Son of David*" as being the Messiah.

But the Title, "*Son of David*" has a History to it that we need to know. And that History is a very *sinful* History. Now there is no doubt that the History behind the Title, "*Son of David*" is an *amazing and breathtaking* History that is filled with Wonder and Awe- but it is also very *sinful*. And the fact that these two blind men assign Jesus that Title- is also very amazing.

The Title, "*Son of David*" has to do with the Covenant that God made with King David- about 1,000 years before Jesus was born- where God Himself spoke through the Prophet Nathan and said,

8 "Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.

9 "I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.

10 "I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly,

11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you.

12 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 “I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,

15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

16 “Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”” (2Samuel 7:8-16)

... so, God promised to establish David’s “House” on the Throne. And three times in this Promise from God- we see the word, “**Forever**”- which means that David’s House on the Throne will NEVER end.

But then in verses 14&15- we see that God also said that Solomon, David’s son was a Sinner, whom God would correct. But then in **1Kings 11:11-13**, we read,

11 So the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.

12 “Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

13 “However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”

... and that tells us that the “*Davidic Covenant*” was very odd because, on the one hand, it contained an *infallible* Promise:

Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.

... but on the other hand- because of Solomon’s Sin- it also contained a frightening Component:

... I will surely tear the kingdom from you [Solomon], and will give it to your servant

... but then God had promised to NOT totally reject David’s House, when He said,

I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men

... so what are we to make of this?

What we are to understand is that the “*Davidic Covenant*” is BOTH “*Unconditional*” AND “*Conditional*”. It is “*Conditional*” because Sin will cause God to tear David’s House (Descendants) *away* from the Throne. And that can NEVER be overcome- since EVERYONE is a Sinner!

But this Covenant is also “*Unconditional*” because when someone sins- God Himself will overcome that Sin- so that David’s House will sit on the Throne- FOREVER! And we know that this was fulfilled- NOT by any of David’s natural descendants- but through the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus- who also was a “Son of David”.

And because the Jews understood all too well how sinful the descendants of David had been- that by the Time we get to the 1st Century- the Jews equated the “*Davidic Covenant*” with the Messiah. So, it is very possible that those two blind men in **Matthew 9:27** saw Jesus as being the Messiah- the *fulfillment* of the Davidic Covenant- which is why they called Him, “**Lord**”! (v. 28)

But now I want to add further to this Mystery- by causing you to remember that the fact that God’s people once had David as their King- as beloved as he may have been- was NOT Good at all- it was terrible! The fact that the Children of Israel had any human king at all- was because of *horrific* Sin! And in one of the most blasphemous Statements ever made by any human being- the Children of Israel said this to the Prophet in **1 Samuel 8:4b**:

“ ... appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.”

... and in saying they wanted to be, “**like all the nations**”- they were talking about the pagan Gentile nations of the World, who did not know God- at all!

God had shown His great Mercy to the Children of Israel and had given them their Land; their Language; their Culture; their Religion; and their Government. God had given these people His Word and had sent them His Prophets. Yet they did not appreciate all that God had done for them nor were they grateful. So, they asked for a *human* king- to *replace* God as their King. So, this was, perhaps, the greatest case of wicked Blasphemy the world has ever known! And in verses 7b&8, God Almighty said this to the Prophet Samuel:

7 ... “Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

8 “Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.

... and in **1Samuel 12:17b**, the Prophet said this,

... your wickedness is great which you have done in the sight of the Lord by asking for yourselves a king.

... but then in **1Samuel 8:9**, God told the Prophet,

Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them.

.. and in verses 11-18, Samuel said this to the people,

11 ... “This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and place them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots.

12 “He will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

13 “He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers.

14 “He will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves and give them to his servants.

15 “He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants.

16 “He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys and use them for his work.

17 “He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants.

18 “Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

... but look at the Response in verses 19&20:

19 Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, “No, but there shall be a king over us,

20 that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

... so, this is really terrible.

But then we must consider that had Israel not sinned against God like this and wanted a human king over them- Jesus Christ would not have come as the

King over all other kings; the Lord over all other lords of the earth; or the “*Son of David*”.

But as we examine this correctly- we must now apply what we already know that is true about God to this Scene. And that means that Jesus Christ’s “Kingship” over all the earth (including Israel) was NOT an “Afterthought” in the Mind of God. It was NOT an “unplanned Response” to the horrific Sin of Israel. It was part of God’s Plan from the very Beginning!

But this created a Question in my mind:

If God saw this horrific Sin coming from the very Beginning; and He already knew that He would permit it- and thus make the Kingship over all the earth by Jesus- a part of His Plan to glorify Jesus as the King over all other kings- then why not simply make “Kingship” part of Israel’s Governance from the very Beginning? Why not make Moses the *first* King? And then Joshua would succeed him and so on? Why plan for God Himself to be their King at the Beginning and only bring in a “human King” into their History later on through this blasphemous Sin?

So, to unravel this- let’s begin with what Moses infallibly wrote in **Genesis 12**. There, we read that God chose Abram as the “Father” of the people that God had chosen and was dealing with. And God sovereignly promises this wicked Sinner (Abram) that, through his Offspring, ALL the Families of the entire world would be blessed (**Genesis 12:1-3**)!

And then God showed Abram the stars of Heaven as well as the grains of Sand. And from that we know that this means that the Messiah, Jesus, the Christ, will come through Abram- *Physically* while the Believers- the Followers of Jesus- will come through Abram- *Spiritually*.

Now one of the strangest things happens to Abram. And he meets a guy named, “Melchizedek” in **Genesis 14:18**. And Melchizedek is called, “**priest of God Most High**” as well as “**king of Salem.**” And his name means: “**King of Righteousness.**” Now Moses didn’t understand much about this, but many hundreds of years later, God the Holy Spirit “moved” on the unknown writer of the book of **Hebrews**. And this man was given the direct Revelation from God that Melchizedek was a “Type” or a “*prefiguring*” or a “*foreshadowing*” of Jesus!

So, when we put **Genesis** and **Hebrews** together along with **Psalms 104**- we see that *whoever* the coming messianic King is- will also be a “**priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.**” The writer of **Hebrews** infallibly said,

... was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. Without father, without

mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually. (Hebrews 7:2b&3)

So, we already know that in the foreknowledge and predetermined Plan of God- the coming Messiah will be a “Priest/King”. But the Decree for the Messiah to be a “King” and NOT merely a Priest did NOT come later on. We can see it in the Story of Samuel’s birth and dedication.

Samuel’s mother Hannah was barren. Then Eli prophesied that she would have a child. So, Samuel was born and Hannah brought him to the Temple; and dedicated him to the Lord. And among the many amazing things that Hannah said is this from **1Samuel 2:10**:

Those who contend with the Lord will be shattered; Against them He will thunder in the heavens, The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; And He will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed.”

Now it helps to remember that when Hannah said this- Israel didn’t have a human king. God was over them- *sovereignly*- through the chosen and appointed Judges.

Now back in **Deuteronomy 17:14-20**- Moses had given Instructions about the Kingship- if the people ever went in that Direction. And in **Deuteronomy 28:36**- Moses actually prophesied about the Exile of the people- AND THEIR KING- if they ever rebelled against the Lord! So, I say to you that what happened in **1Samuel 12** was NOT a surprise to God- and neither was it something that God simply “knew about” before it happened.

Now God DID know about it before it happened- because God is “*Omniscient*” and knows *everything* about *everything*. But we must NOT stop there. We MUST go on and say that this was something that God had Decreed *before* He made the Universe! And so, while it is true that God did NOT FORCE Israel to sin- because it was His Will- God *sovereignly* and *passively allowed* it! So, before Time began- God knew that this horrific Sin would happen (because those people wanted it) AND God had already determined that He was going to stand aside and permit it!

Now WHY would a Good and Sovereign God allow such Evil to come about? Because as we have learned- while it is true that God NEVER *forces* anyone to sin- there are Times when it is His Will that certain people sin- to a certain extent. And they sin because they *want* to. But even though God could (and sometimes does) stop it- there are times when God *allows* certain people to sin- to a certain extent. And the Reason God allows those Sins to exist- is because

through that Evil- God will bring forth a *greater* Good- that would NOT have come forth had God not allowed that Sin to exist.

So, because God is supremely Good- whenever God permits people to Sin- He does so very *wisely* and NOT *foolishly*. Therefore, this horrific Sin of the people of God- rejecting God as their King and wanting a sinful human king- was all part of God's overarching Plan for the Glory of His Son!

Now the sinful Demand for a wicked human king actually started back in **1Samuel 8**- but I want to skip to **1Samuel 12** where the Prophet told the people: **1Samuel 12:6b-11**:

6 ... "It is the Lord who appointed Moses and Aaron and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt.

7 "So now, take your stand, that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous acts of the Lord which He did for you and your fathers.

8 "When Jacob went into Egypt and your fathers cried out to the Lord, then the Lord sent Moses and Aaron who brought your fathers out of Egypt and settled them in this place.

9 "But they forgot the Lord their God, so He sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.

10 "They cried out to the Lord and said, 'We have sinned because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth; but now deliver us from the hands of our enemies, and we will serve You.'

11 "Then the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Bedan and Jephthah and Samuel, and delivered you from the hands of your enemies all around, so that you lived in security.

Now the Point of all these verses is to show that God was faithful as their Divine King- even when they were NOT faithful. So, when they cried to Him, He saved them. He gave them Safety. That's what a King is for- to provide Peace for the people. But what was their Response to having God Almighty as their King? Verse 12:

When you saw that Nahash the king of the sons of Ammon came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' although the Lord your God was your king.

What? You can almost hear the Disbelief in Samuel's voice: "*You guys want a human king- when God Himself is your King! Are you crazy? How*

could you be so sinful?" So, Samuel said this in **1Samuel 12:13**:

Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen, whom you have asked for, and behold, the Lord has set a king over you.

... and then Samuel cried out to God to give these Rebels a Sign in thunder and rain, and he describes their Sin as a great wickedness. Verse 17:

17 "Is it not the wheat harvest today? I will call to the Lord, that He may send thunder and rain. Then you will know and see that your wickedness is great which you have done in the sight of the Lord by asking for yourselves a king."

18 So Samuel called to the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.

19 Then all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, so that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil by asking for ourselves a king."

... but so we will not miss the holy Work of God through this unholy Wickedness, in **The Acts 13:19-21**- look what the Apostle Paul said,

19 When He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance—all of which took about four hundred and fifty years.

20 After these things He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.

21 Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

... please don't miss this! When the Children of Israel sinned horrifically before the Lord and wanted a human king rather than continue on with God Himself as their King- the Apostle said here- *infallibly*- that it was God Himself who gave them Saul to be their king!

Now if that was all that Paul said- we would still be confused. But now look what he said in the very next verse:

After He [God] had removed him [Saul], He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.' (The Acts 13:22)

... so, God did NOT merely give those rebels a human King. God did three very distinct things:

1. God Almighty *gave* them Saul
2. God Almighty *removed* Saul
3. God Almighty *raised* up David

... and so, as Believers, we should echo the Word of God from **Genesis 50:20**:

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

Okay, Brother Blair, why did God start with Himself as their King, and then heed to their sinful Desire and give them a human King later on through a horrific Sin? What is the Point of that?

Well, I'm so glad you asked. Because there are at least six things:

1. We too are Stiff-necked, Rebellious, and Unthankful.

One Lesson we should learn from all this- is how stiff-necked and rebellious and unthankful we are. That's why **1Samuel 12** begins the Way it does by reminding the people how God saved them from Egypt; gave them the promised Land; and then rescued them from evil kings. And each time they forget God and go after other things. But that is NOT just the story of OT Israel. It's the story of Humanity itself! It's the story of my Life and yours!

Even as Christians, we are not always Steadfast in our Affections for God. We have Days when we are thankful, true. But we also have Days when we are unthankful and ungrateful. And even in our thankful Days- we are NOT as thankful as we should or could be. Just think of how joyful and thankful we would be if our heart responded to God Himself and His ten thousand Gifts with the Admiration and Gratitude- THAT HE IS WORTHY OF!

That's *why* this is in the Bible. We don't need a history Lesson, we need to see "Word-pictures" of ourselves through Stories like this. So, God sovereignly allows His people to drift into these kind of ungrateful and idolatrous "Seasons of Sin"- so that every mouth may be stopped (that might protest our own Goodness) and so that the whole world will be held accountable before God (**Romans 3:19**).

2. God is Faithful to His own Name

We should learn from this how faithful God is to His own Name. Look at **1Samuel 12:22**:

For the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the Lord has been pleased to make you a people for Himself.

So, what is the *deepest* Foundation of God's Faithfulness to His people? Many would answer that by saying, "*Because He loves us so!*" And God DOES love us. But the Holy Bible says He loves Himself- MORE! So, the DEEPEST Foundation of God's Faithfulness to His people is His *unswerving* Allegiance that God has- to the Glory of His own Name!

God's Jealousy and Zeal for His own Glory- is infinitely larger and greater and more profound than His Love for us. Read the Beginning of verse 22 again slowly and thoughtfully:

the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name

... this does NOT say, "for *their* great name's sake" or even "for His great Love toward them". This says, "for *His* great Name's sake."

And that means that God is completely committed to upholding the infinite Worth and Truth and Beauty and Importance and Righteousness and Glory of His own Name! And that also means that Stories like this are in the Bible to teach us that God's Ways are governed by an infinite Wisdom; guided by the infinite Worth of the Name (Reputation) of God!

And that also means that the Grace of our Salvation is ultimately based- NOT on our value to God- but on God's Value to Himself!

3. Grace flows to Sinners from God's supreme Allegiance to His Name.

We should learn from this Story how amazingly Grace for Sinners like us flows from God's supreme Allegiance to His own Name- in the midst of horrific Sin. Look at the amazing Illustration of this in verses 19–22. In verse 19, the people are terrified at the horrific Sin they have committed against God. And they say:

... Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, so that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil by asking for ourselves a king.

... and the words that follow this are a picture of free gospel Grace to undeserving Sinners. Samuel said to the people (verse 20),

"Do not fear. You have committed all this evil ..."

... isn't that an odd Statement? **“Do not fear. You have committed all this evil...”** That must be a misprint. Shouldn't it say, *“Be very afraid; you have committed all this Evil!”* But it doesn't. Instead, it says, **“Do not fear. You have committed all this evil...”** You are all Guilty- but don't fear! I would suggest to you that this is pure Grace! God's Grace treats us- NOT the Way we deserve. So, God does NOT say, *“Be very afraid because you have committed all this Evil!”* But God treats us infinitely BETTER than we deserve: **“Do not fear. You have committed all this evil...”**

But based on what? How could this be? What is the Basis of this Grace? Wel, it couldn't have been the people. They had ONLY done Evil. What then? Verse 22:

the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name

... and that means that God's Allegiance to His own Name is the Foundation of His Faithfulness to us! If God ever forsook His supreme Allegiance to Himself, there would be no Grace for us- *at all!* If God based His Kindness to us on our Worth- there would be no Kindness to us- *at all!*

We too are Stiff-necked, Rebellious, and Ungrateful. We too are guilty! And that means that free, unmerited Grace is our only Hope to be otherwise. But the Basis of that Grace is NOT the Worth of our Name; or even because God loves us- but the infinite Worth of God's Name!

4. True Kingship belongs only to God.

We should learn from God's Way of bringing about the Kingship in Israel that *true* Kingship belongs to NO Man. True Kingship belongs *only* to the Lord! God inaugurates His Relationship with Israel with no human king in order to make crystal clear that that only God should be the King! Only God is King! So, when Israel asked for a human king, they were rejecting this Truth. And God said it clearly in **1Samuel 8:7**:

... they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

... but if God had begun the History of Israel with Moses and Joshua being the first kings, it would not be clear that only God can be the King of Israel. So, we must conclude that God will have no human Competitors.

5. A God/Man must be King

Therefore, we should learn from God's Way of installing a human king that His Purposes are to inaugurate a line of human kings, WHO WOULD WALL FAIL- until the one King came- Who was not only fully and truly Man but also fully and truly God! And that is because only God can be King! So, in giving Israel a human king, God did NOT change His Mind about only God being the rightful King. The Point is that God alone is King and there is coming a King- the Son of David, Who will not fail like the others. He will not be just another sinful man. He will be a sinless God/Man.

“Okay, Brother Blair, this is all very interesting. But what does all this have to do with those two blind men calling Jesus, “Son of David”? Jesus confronted the unsaved Pharisees with a Question based on **Psalm 110:1**, where King David infallibly wrote,

A Psalm of David. 1 The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

... but until Jesus brought this verse up- NOBODY understood it. David himself didn't understand it.

But look at how Jesus responded to it, from **Matthew 22:45**:

If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?

... in other words, for all those who have been graciously given ears to hear- Jesus is MORE than merely the “Son of David”. He is MORE than merely a human king. Because ONLY God can be the final rightful King! And that's *exactly* the Way it began- and that is *exactly* how it will all end! Jesus Christ is, right now and will always be- the divine-human King!

And I am telling you that, somehow- and we really don't know how- but somehow- those two blind men knew this. And THAT is why they cried to Jesus, “Son of David” and called, Him, “Lord!”

Simply because they were blind does NOT mean they didn't know Israel's History. And it also doesn't mean that God had not chosen them to see Jesus- *spiritually*- way before they saw Him *physically*. And so, even though the immediate Catalyst for them was their *physical* Blindness- it was NOT the primary Reason they cried out to Jesus.

They were Sinners- and they knew it. And they also knew that God was not only Righteous- but also Merciful. And so, even though they had no doubt sinned many times- they knew they could come to Jesus- without Fear- and that for His own Name's sake- He would not only heal their blind eyes- but save their wicked

souls! And THAT is what was going on here and why Matthew put this in his gospel Record. And that brings us to the final Point:

6. This King died for His people.

Finally, we should learn from the Way God brought a human king to Israel that there needed to be a human king. Only God can be the rightful King- but there needed to be a human king. Why? Because for God to have a people to rule and to love, who were not in Hell because of their Sins, the King had to die for the people. And God can't die. Man can die.

So, God had planned not only that only God would be the only rightful King of Israel, but the rightful King of Israel would die in the place of the people! So, the King of Israel is also the King of the Universe! And that King is the God/Man. So, he is both Man- so, He can die and He is God- who will reign forever in His resurrected Glory!

Amen. Let's pray. © 2021-2024 by *Delighting in God Ministries, Inc.* All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.