

JESUS OF NAZARETH
THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST
MATTHEW 8:23-9:8
3-22-20

All = bold sections – read together
Leader = regular font – leader reads

Welcome

May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the comfort and courage of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance!

Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:28–31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Take a moment alone or together to reflect on who God is and his provision for us. Are you faint? Do you have no might? Are you weary? Then turn to Jesus now as your Rock, your Strength, your Power.

Song: 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) - YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRIOE

Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul. Worship His Holy name. Sing like never before, Oh my soul I'll worship Your Holy name.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger. Your name is great and Your heart is kind. For all Your goodness I will keep on singing.... Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul. Worship His Holy name. Sing like never before, Oh my soul I'll worship Your Holy name.

And on that day when my strength is failing. The end draws near and my time has come. Still my soul will sing Your praise unending.... Ten thousand years and then forevermore!

Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul. Worship His Holy name. Sing like never before, Oh my soul I'll worship Your Holy name

Psalm of Praise: Psalm 107:1-9 -- What do we have to give thanks for?

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.



Song: Living Hope – YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f2FXxDVO6w>

How great the chasm that lay between us. How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation, I turned to heaven, and spoke Your name into the night.
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory to wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven. The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free.
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me.
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion. Declared the grave has no claim on me.
Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion. Declared the grave has no claim on me.

Jesus, Yours is the victory, whoa!

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free.
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me.
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free.
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me.
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in Your name.

Jesus Christ, my living hope.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.
Oh God, You are my living hope.

Song: Amazing Grace – YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found. Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone, I've been set free! My God, my Savior has ransomed me!
And like a flood His mercy rains. Unending love, Amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow. The sun forbear to shine.



But God, Who called me here below, will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

Centering Prayer/Prayer of the People

Start a time of prayer by reading this together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever....

Then take a few moments to pray silently or out loud for: Our church, our city, our country, our leaders, our world during this especially challenging time.

Conclude by praying this together:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. Have mercy on us, sinners.

Offering

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

You can give by sending your offering to the church (131 W. F Street, Oakdale Ca 95361) or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.

How might we give of our time and resources to those who are most affected by the coronavirus?

Youth Celebration

We remember and celebrate the presence and participation of our youth. If there is a youth in your midst – share your love and appreciation for them. If there is no youth in your presence, take a moment to thank God for those he brings to your attention.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 8:23-9:8

Please open your Bible and read Matthew 8:23-9:8

Gospel Message: The Authority of Jesus Christ

We are in a series entitled, *Jesus of Nazareth* that is focusing on who the biblical Jesus is and our response to him. We have just finished the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus taught us that his disciples are blessed because of God's grace towards them. He then showed that while we are to strive to keep the law in the obedience of faith, no one can ever reach God or earn his saving grace by it. We all fall woefully short. Thus, everyone's need for grace. Our response is gratitude and delight to live as citizens of the kingdom of God, as children of the King.

The end of our passage last week spoke about the crowd's amazement at Jesus because he was one who spoke with authority (Matthew 7:29). We will focus on the word *authority* this week as Jesus doesn't just talk a good game, he lives it. In the passage you just read, Jesus showed his authority over three spheres of life, demonstrating that he is Lord, he is the Messiah, he is the Savior...that he has authority.

What does the word authority mean? To have authority is to have the right to control or govern over, to rule over, to control. It means to have the ability and power and freedom to accomplish something.

We mentioned at the beginning of this series through Matthew that Jesus is presented as Prophet, Priest



and King. The sermon of the Mount was Jesus as Prophet, telling us the truth about life in the Kingdom. Today's passage focuses on Jesus being King, that is, having authority.

Notice in our passage that Jesus demonstrates his authority in three spheres of life:

I. Authority over Natural Realm

Jesus calms a great storm on the sea of Galilee with his voice!



This is a picture of the Sea of Galilee. Imagine being on it in a fierce storm in which you thought you were about to drown and die. Imagine Jesus sleeping next to you. What are you thinking? Feeling? You wake him and he asks you why you are afraid – why does he ask this? Then, he stands and says a few words and the storm obeys him and stops! Now what are you thinking and feeling? What is Jesus' point about faith? About him? About life?

II. Authority over Spiritual Realm

Jesus heals two men with demons with a simple command, "Go!"



This is a picture of an area on the northeast shore of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus performed this miracle. Imagine being the person watching the herd of pigs with two crazy, demon possessed men in the nearby hills. Jesus speaks with the demons that possess these men and commands them with a single word, "Go!" to enter the nearby herd of pigs. What difference does it make to you that Jesus has authority over demons? What are the freed men thinking?

III. Authority over Biological Realm

Jesus heals a paralyzed man!



This is a picture of Capernaum, Jesus' home town and where he healed the paralytic. Take a look at your body. How does it look? How does it feel? Think of those who are sick from various causes, including the coronavirus. How does Jesus' authority over the biological realm strengthen your faith? What difference does it make for us in today's world? Why do you think the Scribes reacted the way they did? Jesus "saw their faith." How are others seeing your faith?

Finally, why did Jesus also forgive his sins? What is the Good News that Jesus is declaring?

May we, as Jesus' disciples draw great comfort from Jesus' authority over the physical realm, the spiritual realm and the biological realm. May he have authority over our lives and may we respond with a faith that can be seen by others. May we rest in the comfort of Jesus' authority to forgive our sins.

Communion Meditation

Professing: (Apostles Creed)



Read out loud:

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven
Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Proclaiming (1 Corinthians 11:23b-25) - Paraphrased

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread and he broke it saying, "this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, "this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins."

Participating (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

-While we cannot participate in the Lord's Supper apart from the gathering of the local church and under the presiding of the council, we can remember and be grateful for the Good News of Jesus – his perfect life; his sacrificial and substitutionary death on the cross, his being raised to resurrection life; his ascending into heaven and his returning again to bring heaven fully to earth and remove all forms of evil from earth, forever! Because of Jesus, we are loved and our sins are forgiven!!

-Spend some time meditating on the Good News of Jesus. Remember past experiences of the Lord's Supper that were especially meaningful to you.

-Close this time by praying together:

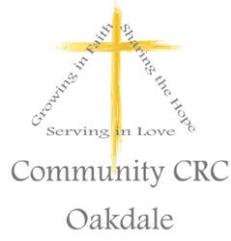
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. Have mercy on me, a sinner.

Song: Let Your Kingdom Come – YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Rh8I0r9glA>

Your glorious cause, O God, engages our hearts.
May Jesus Christ be known, wherever we are.
We ask not for ourselves, but for Your renown.
Your grace has saved us so we pray your kingdom come.

Let Your kingdom come. Let Your will be done.
So that everyone might know Your name.
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.
Let Your kingdom come.

Give us Your strength, O God, and courage to speak.
Perform Your wondrous deeds, through those who are weak.



Lord use us as You want, whatever the test.
By grace we'll preach Your gospel till our dying breath.
Let Your kingdom come. Let Your will be done.
So that everyone might know Your name.
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.
Let Your kingdom come.

Sending Out as Disciples of Jesus: Matthew 28:18–20 (paraphrased)

In closing, let us remember and value gathering together. Being apart brings this into sharper focus.
Read together our sending, focusing on our identity as disciples of Jesus in our various spheres of influence:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Therefore, as we are sent into the world by him, let us make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us. And let us remember and treasure that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen!

Draw a picture of something that grabbed your attention. Or, write your reflections on today's experience.
What are your thoughts, feelings, action steps?