

Who Do You Say That I Am?

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

64- Jesus Demonstrates His Absolute Authority- Part 2
Jesus Has Authority Over Sickness and Disease- Part 2

Church August 06, 2023

Matthew 8:1-17

8 When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him.

2 And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

3 Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

4 And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

5 And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him,

6 and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented."

7 Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

8 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.

9 "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."

10 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.

11 "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;

12 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."

13 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.

14 When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever.

15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him.

16 When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.

17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."

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

Now last week- I told you that now that Jesus has entered His 3-1/2- year earthly Ministry- Matthew is going to prove to all who have an ear to hear; and an eye to see; and a heart to believe- that, in addition to Jesus being a full and true Man- Jesus is also God Almighty in human Flesh!

So, we have come to a place in our verse-by-verse "Journey" through the **Gospel Record of Matthew** that contains the "*historical narratives*" of the Absolute Authority of Jesus being demonstrated here on the earth. And so, over the next several Lord's Days- I want to ask and answer several Questions pertaining to what Matthew infallibly wrote here:

1. What is God's Absolute Authority?
2. Did these supernatural Events really happen?
3. Why did Jesus demonstrate His Authority?
4. Is this Authority active today?

... and last week- we began this Sermon series by looking at #1 and exploring just what God's Absolute Authority really is.

But then we began to also examine at #2; and to go about to prove that these supernatural Events really did happen- by looking at the *first* Example of Jesus' Absolute Authority from verses 1-4. So, today, I want to look at the other two Examples that Matthew gave us:

B. Jesus has absolute Authority over Paralysis

Now I'm going to divide this miraculous Demonstration of the absolute Authority that Jesus had over Paralysis into two parts:

1. The Demonstration and Result (v.5-9&13)

2. The Divine Condemnation (v.10-12)

... so, let's look at the Demonstration of Jesus' absolute Authority over the horror of Paralysis first:

Matthew 8:5-9&13

5 And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him,

6 and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented."

7 Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

8 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.

9 "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."

13 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.

Now the reason I wanted to divide this Section into two parts is because Jesus demonstrated His absolute Authority over Paralysis in verses 5-9. And then we see the Result of that Authority in verse 13. But in verses 10-12- Jesus issued a Divine Condemnation and then gave a Prophecy that we need to pay close attention to.

Now, first of all, Matthew tells us about a "*Centurion*" in verse 5. And this word *literally* meant: a "*Commander over a Century*". So, this Commander had 100 "*Legionaries*"¹ under his Command. So, a "*Centurion*" back in 1st Century Palestine was a battle-hardened Roman soldier, who had risen up through the ranks; and who, because of notable Qualities became a Commander over, at least, 100 men. And this is why the Centurion told Jesus,

".. 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 I also want you to notice something very interesting about this Passage. In verses, 6,8, &13- Matthew used a word (*pais*/Strong's #3816) that was correctly translated into English as "**servant**". But at the *end* of verse 9- the Apostle

¹ The Roman "Legionary" (Latin: *Legionarius*, plural *Legionarii*) was a professional heavy infantryman of the Roman army after the Military Reforms instituted by Gaius Marius.

infallibly used an entirely *different* word (*doulos*/Strong's #1401) that was correctly translated into English here as “**slave**”.

Now the *Christian Standard Bible (CSB)*; the *Legacy Standard Bible (LSB)*; and the *New American Standard Bible (NASU95)* are the ONLY English versions that *correctly* translated the word, “*doulos*” in verse 9 into “**slave**”. All of the other English versions of the Holy Bible translated “*doulos*” the very SAME way they translated “*pais*” (as “**servant**”) even though it is an entirely *different* word.

Now I have no idea why those other Versions did that- but they should fix it tomorrow- because it is a very important Mistake. Because that Error causes people to *misunderstand* the Relationship that the Centurion had with the “Servant” of verse 6.

The “**servant**” of verse 6 was NOT a “*slave-boy*” who had been *forced* to become the Centurion's homosexual lover- as so many people are teaching today. That simply is NOT true. There is NO reason at all from either the original word that Matthew wrote here; or the Custom of the day- that would give anyone the notion that the “**servant**” of verse 6 was even a boy; much less that he had any Relationship at all with this Centurion.

First of all- the “**servant**” of verse 6 was NOT a slave. He was a “*pais*”- a household servant- who was probably even paid to perform his regular duties. And there is NO reason at all to assume that the Concern that this Centurion showed for his servant in verse 6 was sinful in anyway. Now the Centurion probably DID own real slaves (*doulos*). At a minimum- he was *familiar* with slaves and with Slavery- because he said this in verse 9:

“.. 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.”

... but that had NOTHING to do with the “servant” who had become paralyzed.

There are people today, who have made it their Life's Mission to try to *normalize* sexual Perversions. And there is a group within that *larger* Group- who do their best to try to use the Bible to justify why they applaud what God has clearly and repeatedly condemned. And *part* of the reason any of these wayward people have any credibility at all- is the fact that the King James Version translated both “*pais*” and “*doulos*” as “**servants**”.

So, because homosexual Sins WERE being forced on both male and female slaves back in 1st Century Palestine- they *wrongly* conclude that since Jesus never said anything about it here with this Centurion- that Jesus was giving tacit Approval of the Sin. He wasn't. The servant of the Centurion was NOT his slave.

And there is NOTHING in the text that causes anyone to think that there was a sexual relationship of any kind going on between them.

Now the Essence that Matthew is trying to convey here has been *twisted* and *maligned* completely out of shape- by many of the so-called, “*Health and Prosperity*” preachers and teachers of our day. In other words, almost EVERYTHING they teach about this Passage- is wrong. And it *completely* misses the main Point that Matthew was trying to convey to his Jewish readers (and us).

So, to put all of this in its correct Context- let’s read what happened. In verse 13, when Jesus said,

... "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed."...

He was NOT teaching that the main ingredient to receive physical Healing is Faith; and that if only we could “*build up our Faith*”- we would ALWAYS be healed. That is NOT why Jesus said this.

To understand *why* Jesus said what he said- you MUST connect what He said in verse 13 with what He *also* said in verses 10- 12:

10 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.

11 "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;

12 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."

13 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.

Here in the first part of verse 10- Matthew wrote:

Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled ...

... when Jesus heard *what*? When Jesus heard the Centurion say,

8 ... "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

9 "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."

... THAT is what made Jesus marvel.

But *why* would hearing that make Jesus marvel? Because of the man's Faith? Yes- BUT this man's *strong Faith* in comparison to the almost total *lack of Faith* that was in the Jewish people of the 1st Century.

We need to remember that the Centurion was a pagan Gentile. And that means, unless he had studied Jewish history- this man knew NOTHING of the 39 Books of the Old Testament. He had NEVER studied the Law of Moses; NEVER had an angelic visitation; NEVER saw a Prophet; NEVER heard God speak; NEVER had ANY connection to the one, true, and living God- other than ruling over the Jews of the 1st Century- who, for the most part- had almost completely given up on God and were terrible examples of what it meant to belong to God.

And yet with NONE of the great spiritual ADVANTAGES that the Jew had- this man believed. But just what did this man believe? Some say he simply believed that Jesus would heal his servant. And for those people- the main Issue here is Faith.

But we need to understand that for him to believe that Jesus could heal his servant- did NOT mean that he thought Jesus was a Prophet- because this man knew nothing about Prophets! And that means that this Centurion very well may have thought that Jesus was God. And that means that the main Subject here is NOT the Faith to be healed- but the Faith to be saved! And that is reason for us to think that this Centurion thought Jesus was God.

But that also means that it is very possible that this Centurion was actually *worshipping* Jesus as God- because he called Jesus, "**Lord**" in verse 8. Now he *may* have done that simply out of respect- and NOT as a type of Worship- because the word that Matthew actually wrote down here that was translated into English as "**Lord**" was "*kurios*"- which could be used as either sign of Respect or as a type of Worship.

Yet we see that the Centurion DID believe that Jesus could heal his servant. And in the Roman polytheistic false religion- no one could physically heal anybody but one of the gods. So, to that extent- this man DID believe Jesus was God.

But in any case- Matthew is careful to tell us that the servant was completely healed by Jesus simply speaking it into existence! And this was given to us to prove to us that Jesus had the very SAME absolute Authority over Sickness and Disease a God Himself!

But now look at what Jesus said about this:

... "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."

Here is another place where Matthew quotes the incarnate God as He is *condemning* faithless Israel. And Jesus began this Condemnation with these insulting words:

"Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel

Now please remember that Jesus had 10-15- maybe even 25,000 Jews following Him Day and Night- everywhere He went- as He walked all around Galilee for almost 3 years; and then made His Way down to Jerusalem. So, He was literally *surrounded* with Jews- who were all pushing in on Him- crying out for Him to heal them and to do something for them. Yet, Jesus said He had NEVER found this kind of Faith, **"with anyone in Israel"**!

Now this is a very frightening, *"Divine Indictment"* against the Jews of that Day. And think what "Day" it was. This was the Time- out of ALL of human History- that God the Father chose to "put on Flesh" and *insert* Himself into His Own Creation- in order to become a *part* of it. So, God chose this Day; this Time; this Season- to manifest Himself as God Almighty in human Flesh!

Yet during the very Time that God chose to manifest Himself- as the incarnate Christ- a pagan, battle hardened, Gentile, Roman Centurion had MORE Faith in Jesus' absolute Authority than ANYONE in all of Israel! What an Indictment against these unbelieving Jews! What an Insult! What a Condemnation! But Jesus wasn't finished yet. So, after Jesus insults the Jews, He began to utter a Prophecy:

"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."

Now the phrase, **"East and West"** referred to the barbaric Gentile Nations of the world- who sacrificed their children; who pierced themselves with bones; who engaged in all sorts of sinful sexual practices; and who worshipped totem poles. These are the peoples of the world that God had NOT chosen to be His people; who did NOT have the Law of Moses; who had NOT been visited by Angels and Prophets; to whom God had NOT given them their Land; and their Government; and their Language; and who did NOT have the inspired; infallible; and inerrant

Word of the living God! That is who Jesus was talking about: our Gentile Ancestors!

And Jesus said, “MANY”- not a few- but MANY of these Gentile pagans will come and do what? Jesus said they will...

... recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven ...

... in other words, these sinful polytheistic Gentiles will recline at the very spot that God had reserved for the Jew!

We need to understand that Jesus didn't say this to the Gentiles masses- He spoke this in the presence of tens of thousands of Jews- who were following Him- along with the Jewish religious Leaders who were there!

We also need to understand that “*reclining at the Table of God with the heroes of the Jewish religion*” meant absolutely NOTHING to a 1st Century pagan. The Gentile Nations of the world were completely *oblivious* to what was found in the Jewish Old Testament. That phrase ONLY meant something to the Jews! And Jesus is speaking it here- as an Indictment AGAINST the Jews! But He wasn't finished yet. So, Matthew quotes our Lord as saying,

... 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.”

The ONLY place in the entire Bible that is described as “**outer Darkness**” where there is “**weeping and gnashing of teeth**”- is Hell! And the phrase, “*sons of the kingdom*” refers to the Jews- *exclusively*!

So, Jesus is prophesying here *exactly* what has happened- that nobody in their right mind would have predicted *before* it happened! The Jew- who had ALL of the spiritual Advantages given to them by God- will be, for the most part- thrown into Hell- while the sinful, pagan Gentile- who knows NOTHING of God or the Word of God- will go to Heaven! That is *exactly* what Jesus is saying here. And it is almost beyond Belief!

So, almost to a man- the Jew will *categorically* reject Jesus- and refuse to love and obey Him- while the *overwhelming* majority of the population of the Redeemed- who believe that Jesus is God; and who rejoice that Jesus has absolute Authority; and who love and strive to obey Him- will be Gentiles!

So, in this Passage- Jesus was NOT condemning a general “*lack of Faith*” per se. He was also NOT teaching here that the ONLY reason people are not physically healed is a “*lack of Faith*”. That is NOT what Jesus was saying here; and that is NOT what Matthew wanted his readers to see. Jesus was condemning a

lack of Faith in the Jew of that Day. And specifically, He was condemning the fact that the Jew of His Day did NOT have “*Faith in Jesus as being God*”- even though they had EVERY reason to believe!

The Jew of the 1st Century had NO reason to disbelieve Jesus- while they also had EVERY reason to believe that He was God. And yet Jesus said the one with the MOST Faith- in Him as God- was a violent, Gentile, Centurion! No wonder they hated Jesus! No wonder the Jew of today hates Him! And by their Hate- of the ONLY sinless Man who ever lived- they are proving four things:

1. They are NOT God’s people
2. They are NOT children of Abraham
3. They do NOT understand or believe or obey the Old Testament
4. They are NOT going to Heaven

... because you simply CANNOT hate Jesus and be in “Right Standing” with God.

So, what is the Conclusion we should draw about this? What should we think about the Jew of our Day? Should we simply bash them? Should we wish Harm toward them? Absolutely Not! We should do several things:

- We should demonstrate the Love of God toward them
- We should “do them Good”
- We should pray for their Salvation
- We should preach the Gospel to them
- We should be able to show them where they are Wrong and why they are Lost
- We should earnestly hope for their Salvation

... just like we do with every other Group of people. Because look what the Apostle Paul said in **Romans 3:9**:

What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

... so, we should NOT treat the Jew any differently than we treat any other Group of people who are lost and deceived by a false religion.

But we should certainly NOT encourage them in their Lost Condition. We should certainly NOT help them believe that it is their “Jewishness” that gives them a Relationship with God. We should certainly NOT give money to help them die in their Sins. And we should certainly NOT believe that the Jew is saved by virtue of nothing except being born Jewish. And we certainly should NOT include

them as already being “God’s people”- UNLESS they repent and trust in Jesus and in His finished Work!

So, the indisputable Fact that the people, who SHOULD have believed didn’t; while the people, who had NO reason to believe- did- has been a Mystery to people all through the Ages. And many wrong and sinful and evil things have been done toward the Jew- *primarily* by people, who called themselves, “Christian”. And we should always condemn that.

But we need to take heart in what God’s infallible Word tells us, when Paul said this in **Romans 9:1-5**:

1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,
2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.
3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,
4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises,
5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Here the Apostle lists all of the Reasons why the Jew SHOULD HAVE believed in Jesus. Yet manifestly- they didn’t. And, aside from the first few years of the Church’s existence- almost ALL of the people Jesus had built His Church with- have been Gentiles! And people have been trying to figure out why for Centuries. But the Bible tells us why. And it always has. Now, granted most people don’t *like* what it says- but it DOES give us the Answer. And as His people- I suggest that we all humble ourselves to what the Bible says.

Why did the Jew, for the most part- both then and now- categorically, willfully, and honestly reject Jesus? Some say that the Jew wasn’t chosen by God. But the Bible clearly and repeatedly says that God chose them- *to the exclusion*- of every other people. Others say that God’s election of the Jew was only *temporary*. But the Bible says that both God’s Call and Gifts to the Jews are *permanent*. Okay, but then why didn’t they believe?

Some suggest that “Sovereign Election” isn’t as “Sovereign” as we thought- and that ALL Salvation- even with the Jews- is left up to things like “human Decision” and “human Choice” out of what they call, “human free-Will”. Yet while the Bible DOES teach that humans have a “Will” and can make “Choices” all day long- it also teaches that our “Will” is NOT “free” and is in bondage to our fallen Nature- that hates God.

Okay- so, why didn't the Jew believe? The Apostle Paul gave us great Encouragement about this distressing Reality when he said this in **Romans 9:6**:

... it is not as though the word of God has failed...

Now why did Paul say that? Because it sure looks like the Word of God HAS failed! Because nobody can read the Old Testament with any degree of honesty and NOT come to the Conclusion that God sovereignly and permanently chose the Jew to be His people. But if that is true- and the Word of God has NOT failed- then why did they almost *unanimously* reject Jesus? Paul gave us the Answer:

Romans 9:6b-8

6 ...it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;

7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."

8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

In other words, NOT ALL Jewish people, who can trace their own physical Lineage back to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob- are a part of "SPIRITUAL ISRAEL" or the saved. That is what Paul meant when he said,

... they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel ...

... in other words, there are TWO Israels! There is "*Natural Israel*" the larger Nation of Jews and there is "*Spiritual Israel*"- those Jews, who are out from Natural Israel- who genuinely believe and who are truly saved. And so, NOT ALL of the Jews, who are part of "*Natural Israel*"- are part of "*Spiritual Israel*".

But the SAME thing is true about Christ's Church. There are two Churches. There is the *visible, natural* Church- that people see that has many, many members in it from all over the world. But then there is the "*true Church*" or the "*invisible Church*"- which is comprised of ONLY the genuinely saved. But then Paul went on to say,

... nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."

... and this means that simply because a person is a natural descendant of Abraham does NOT mean that he is chosen by God or that he is saved. So, not ALL Jews, who can trace their natural Lineage back to Father Abraham are actually “children of Abraham”. Jesus told us who the true Children of Abraham are when He said this in **John 8:37-44; 56&58:**

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

38 "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.

40 "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do.

41 "You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God."

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

43 "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.

44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

... so, the true “Children of Abraham” are those who “do the “Works of Abraham”. And what are the “Works of Abraham”? Three:

1. Seeing Jesus as God
2. Believing in Jesus as God
3. Rejoicing in Jesus as God

...and EVERYONE who does that- is a Child of Abraham.

Finally, Paul gave us this Truth about this Issue:

That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

The Children of the Flesh” are the “*Natural Jews*” who are NOT chosen and who do NOT believe; while the “Children of the Promise” are the true, spiritual Jews, who ARE chosen by God and who DO believe in Jesus as God. And the Analogy that Paul gives here is between Ishamel and Isaac- who were BOTH “sons of Abraham” and yet ONLY Isaac was chosen.

And then for the next 25 verses of **Romans 9**- the Apostle proves to us that this is NOTHING new- but that God has ALWAYS moved like this- even during the Time when the Old Covenant was in force and that there have ALWAYS been two people:

1. Natural people (sands of the sea)
2. Spiritual people (stars of the sky)

... where the “*Natural People*” are those who have been given the Truth; and who are all around the Truth- but who are NOT chosen for Salvation and who will NEVER be saved. And where the “*Spiritual People*” are those whom God has chosen; and those whom God will “see to it” that they genuinely believe and are truly saved. And the “Natural People” may look just like the “Spiritual People”- but they are NOT spiritual at all; they are NOT chosen by God; and they are NOT saved.

So, in this second Example that Matthew gives us about Jesus’ absolute Authority over all Sickness and Diseases- we also see that Jesus has absolute Authority over Salvation as well. And so, after seeing the Faith in a man, who had no reason to have Faith in contrast to the absence of Faith in the people who SHOULD HAVE had Faith in abundance- Jesus issues a “*Divine Indictment*” against the Faithless Jews and prophesies that, in the Future- the majority of the “people of God” will *primarily* be those who were pagans rather than those that had the Pedigree- but who were NEVER chosen by God.

And all of these amazing things that Jesus said and did- stagger us; and they cause our Mouths to gape open; and they even cause *some* to stumble. But what they really are – are simply MORE reasons to worship Jesus; and to be in awe of Him; and to marvel after Him and to love Him; and to strive to obey Him.

Now I have told you this many times- but let me say it again: God is “white-hot” in His Passion to be glorified. And one of the most important Ways that God is glorified- is by Him so radically transforming wicked sinners like us- that we believe. That we do NOT doubt God. And that we trust that what God has clearly

revealed in Scripture is true. That brings God MORE Glory than when He creates a super-nova; or when He hangs stars against the blackness of the Universe.

So, I pray that we will NOT stumble over what the Bible says. I pray that all of us will embrace the Truth of God's Word and allow Truth to dispel *everything* that is false and Man-made. And in so doing- we will prove beyond any Doubt- that we are "God's people" the "spiritual people"; the stars of Heaven"; the true Jews; the true Sons and Daughters of Abraham; and the legitimate heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. And that WILL happen precisely because Jesus has absolute Authority over ALL things! And, as that is proven to be true- God will be glorified and our Joy will be made full!

And Lord willing, next week- we will see Jesus prove yet again that He is God Almighty in human Flesh- by demonstrating absolute Authority over an Infection in Peter's Mother-in-law.

Amen. Let's pray.

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