

# *Who Do You Say That I Am?*

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

66- Jesus Demonstrates His Absolute Authority- Part 4  
*Why Did Jesus Heal the Sick and Cast Out Demons?*

Church August 20, 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.*

This is the fourth Sermon in the Series on “*Jesus Demonstrates His Absolute Authority*”. And we have examined the three Examples of Jesus’ absolute Authority over Sickness; Disease; and Demons from the “*Historical Narratives*” that the Apostle Matthew gave us here in his Gospel Record from the first 17 verses of Chapter 8. And we have also tackled the first two Questions that arise out of these verses. So, now, we come to the next two Questions in our Series:

3. *Why* did Jesus demonstrate His Authority?

4. Is this Authority active today?

... so, let’s go over these together.

### **3. *Why* did Jesus Demonstrate His Absolute Authority?**

*Why* did Jesus heal the Sick and Cast out Demons? *Why* did He do that? Well, there are a few Possibilities- but, perhaps, the MOST *attractive* one is:

**Jesus Meant to completely *Eliminate* Disease from the Earth and to *Permanently* Subdue Demons**

... and here is the Logic behind that Possibility:

**WHEREAS:** Both Sickness and Disease (as well as impaired bodily Functions) are all a Result of the Fall of Adam in the Garden

**WHEREAS:** Death comes by Way of Sin

**WHEREAS:** Human Suffering is part of the Fall

**WHEREAS:** Demons are fallen Angels

**WHEREAS:** God took on Flesh and Became Man and dwelt among us

**THEREFORE:** Jesus came, in part, to destroy satan's Domination over the Earth by Eliminating Disease from the Earth and by Subduing the Demons

... and if you are of a mind to think this Way- there are *countless* Books and Teachings that say just that.

But Matthew already told us why. And the real Reason may not be nearly as attractive as that one- but it is the correct Reason. Because in verses 16&17 the Apostle infallibly wrote:

**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."**

Verse 16 tells us that Jesus exercise absolute Authority over Demons and ALL Diseases. It says,

**... He [Jesus] cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill**

... that's what it says. And then Matthew tied that in with what the Prophet Isaiah predicted about 600 years earlier.

But this pretty much looks like an "*Exclusive Statement*" in that Matthew said that Jesus "**healed ALL who were ill**". And many people take what Matthew said here as an "*All-inclusive Statement*" pertaining to ALL of Humanity.

But we know that Understanding simply isn't true- because there were many other Countries of the world that were up and running at that time, that were made up of hundreds of millions of people- who were sick; as well as others who were tormented by Demons- who were NOT in the Crowd of people around Jesus that day. And they were NOT healed and they were NOT delivered.

All around the world- there were *countless* people- suffering and dying from Diseases; and who were being *horribly* abused by the fallen Angels. Yet there is no Record anywhere that says Jesus healed them or delivered a single one of them Demons. And we need to ask, "*Why?*"

According to what I have read, the population of Palestine back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century was about 350,000- while the population of the entire world at that Time was between 150- 330 million! So, the total population of Palestine represented only 0.0016% of all the people who were alive on the earth during the Time Jesus was here.

So, did Jesus not care about the other 99.98% of the people on

earth? Were they somehow *inferior*? Was their Suffering and Sickness somehow *less* than the Jew's. Were they not also made in God's Image? Did God not love them?

And even though the crowds around Jesus were huge and contained anywhere between 10- 25,000 people- and even if Jesus healed all 25,000 of them- that represented only a small portion of the total Population of the Roman Province of Palestine (approx. 0.07%). But it only represented about 0.000075% of the total population of the world at that time! So, why such a small fraction of the Sick and Demon-possessed people of the world?

Now we can guess and surmise and say, "*Well, God was moving all around the world – we just don't have any records of it.*" But that is the Problem with Guesses like that- we don't have any Records of it- so, we can't say it.

So, even though Matthew tells us that Jesus healed ALL who were in the crowd that Night- He did NOT heal all of the Sick people- who lived in occupied Israel. And He sure didn't heal anyone in the 99.99% of the rest of the world's people.

Yet if it was Jesus' Mission to eliminate Disease from the entire earth; as well as to permanently subdue the Demons- why did He minister to only a small fraction of the people? We MUST answer these Questions- if we are to be honest about physical Healing and the casting out of Demons.

Now I have no idea how many Angels occupied Heaven before Lucifer was cast out. But the Bible says that God cast 1/3 of all the Angels with the arch-Angel when he fell. So, do the math. If there were 1,000 angels- then 334 fell with Lucifer. If there were 10,000- then 3,334. If one million- then there were 334,000 angels that were cast to the earth to become Demons.

Yet as far as I can tell- there were only a handful of instances when Jesus cast out Demons. So, what were the other Demons doing? Were they going throughout the whole earth- tormenting people? And if so- why didn't Jesus cast them out? Now we know that satan DOES go throughout the whole earth- because in **Job 1:7**- when God asked satan where he had been- he replied that he had been...

**... roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.**

... so, it is safe to say that Demons were active all around the world- yet we have no record in the Bible of Jesus casting any of them out- except in the few instances we see in the Gospel Records. Why is that?

Well, there are some Possibilities that might help answer this Mystery. And, arguably, one of the most common Answers is:

## At that Time- Jesus was ONLY interested in the Jews

... I mean, after all, He said this in **Matthew 15:24**:

**I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

... so, the prevailing Logic is that, at that Time, Jesus was ONLY interested in reaching the Jewish people.

Okay, fine. But then *why* did Jesus only deal with a small *fraction* of the Jews? Why not heal EVERY Jew of EVERY Disease? And why not deliver EVERY Jew from EVERY Demon? And why not make both the physical Healing and the Deliverance from Demons to be *permanent*- at least for the Jewish people? Jews get sick all the Time and I have read stories about famous Jews, where one-freely admitted that he was Demon possessed.<sup>1</sup>

Now some would argue that Jesus DID do that. And they bring up verses like **Matthew 8:16** that says:

**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.**

... but the Context here is that OUT OF the “**many**” who were “**brought to Him**”- Jesus cast out the Demons and healed “**all who were ill**”. So, this is NOT talking about ALL Jews throughout ALL Israel- but Jesus healed ALL of the people who were brought to Him that day.

And then there is **Matthew 12:15b** that says:

**... Many followed Him, and He healed them all,**

... but again, the Context is NOT “ALL the Jews”- much less ALL the sick people of the entire world. The ones Jesus healed that day were simply ALL of the ones-out of the “**many**” who followed Him- *that were sick* (because everybody who followed Jesus as not sick).

Now look, *whenever* Jesus demonstrated His absolute Authority- it was a tremendous Miracle- so, I’m not degrading it at all. I’m simply trying to illustrate the Fact that as great as these Miracle were- they did NOT represent a wholesale Healing of all sick people on earth- or even all the sick Jews in Palestine. It was ALL of the group of people anywhere from 10-25,000 people- who were following Jesus- who were sick.

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<sup>1</sup> Sigmund Freud wrote that he was an “*atheistic Jew, who was demon-possessed*”. And he so hated Jesus- that he opened his Practice on Easter Sunday morning.

So, based on that indisputable Fact- I suggest that the Reason Jesus healed the sick and cast out Devils was NOT to banish Sickness from the earth or even from the Jews. That is NOT why Jesus demonstrated His full Deity. It wasn't even to put forth a Matrix or to give us an Example of how *we* can heal the Sick and cast out demons in our Day. There was something else going on here that we need to try to grasp- that, in many ways, is much BETTER than that.

On November 7, 1982- I preached the 10<sup>th</sup> Message in a Series of Sermons that I had begun back in August of that year- on "*Why It is ALWAYS God's Will to Heal the Sick*". You see, I used to dwell in that Camp. So, I honestly believed; and I fervently taught that the ONLY reason God doesn't heal the sick bodies of people (especially the Saved)- is because of three Reasons:

1. They have a lack of Faith
2. They have some unrepented Sin in their Life
3. They are walking in Unforgiveness

... and so, in my Man-made theology of 41 years ago- I said if we can overcome those three Obstacles- God will ALWAYS heal us. Simple. Cut and dried. I thought.

But on that very next Tuesday, November 9, 1982- my 2<sup>nd</sup> Child was born. A little girl that I named, "*Joy*". And Joy was born with Down's Syndrome. She had a cloud over her mind. But God would use this fragile, sick little girl to transform my Life; and to teach me about the Power of God in *enduring* Suffering rather than being delivered from it. About remaining *faithful* in Tragedy- instead of being always Restored. And about being fruitful in Sickness- rather than simply being Healed.

I never did finish that Series- because I came to believe in things that are infinitely BETTER than Deliverance; things that offer infinitely MORE than being Restored; and things that are infinitely WISER than being Healed.

But as I began to change- I kept what was True. And so, I believed then and believe today- that God heals sick bodies. So, I pray and ask God all the Time to heal people who are sick. But since God is God- and NOT a Man- woe be to me if I would dictate to the Almighty as to how and when and why He should Heal or Deliver or Restore. So, I am content now to rest in God's Arms and to know that what God does- is the very BEST.

It is impossible for anyone to read the Bible with any degree of Honesty and not come away with the Notion that God is a healing God by Nature. And so, I would be quite the Fool to deny that. So, because I believe in a supernatural God- I believe in the Supernatural. So, I believe in both Angels and Demons. And I also believe in both Miracles and Acts of Providence.

So, God does what ONLY God can do. And that is one reason why we worship Him. And why He chooses to heal one while allowing the other one to suffer- is BEST understood by us- trusting that God is BETTER and MORE loving than we are- and knowing that what God does is always BEST!

But in my Journey with Jesus for over half-a Century- I have met many people. And while my Daughter was dying with Leukemia- I stumbled across a man at the University Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi, who I had gone to High School with- who was training to be a Doctor- who didn't believe in Miracles- even though he still occasionally prayed for them.

And as my Daughter was gritting her teeth from the Pain- I would share Scripture with him. And as this very intelligent man read about Jesus multiplying the bread and the fish; of transforming the water into wine; of casting out demons; and of raising the Dead back to Life- he told me repeatedly, "*Blair, I'm sorry- I just can't believe in that sort of thing.*"

Charlie reminded me that he was a man of high Principle; high Integrity; Reason; and Science. So, he *refused* to follow his well-meaning Ancestors and be impressed with all the "Fire and the Smoke" he found in the Bible. And he *refused* to be gullible to what he called, "*Natural Phenomena*" that the "prescientific and ignorant people of the Past" mistook for God invading the natural Realm of Man.

And yet, he told me that he often prayed; and asked God to perform Miracles of Healing for the people he met who were sick and dying. But he was quick to tell me that this was NOT him being hypocritical or inconsistent- he was simply trying to "cover all the bases".

Charlie told me that if Something out of the Realm of his understanding existed- he wanted in on the Benefits. So, he prayed to Jesus occasionally- because he wanted family members healed; he wanted to date a girl he saw as being out of his league; he wanted his food occasionally to nourish his body; and he desperately wanted to avoid the Consequences of his own Sins- if possible.

So, my friend wanted all the Signs and the Wonders- but nothing more. And in this kind of "*Wanting*"- Charlie missed the entire Meaning of the Miracles. And those who chase after Signs and Wonders miss the Meaning, too.

Growing up- we all read about the Fairy Godmothers; the Witches and the Warlocks; as well as the Magicians- waving their Wands and transforming pumpkins into carriages; mice into mares; horses into a coachman; dogs into a servants; frogs into Princes; and rags into gowns- all instantly; and all at the reciting of "*Abra-Cadabra*"! And when I read or saw that- I tried it a few times myself- because, it seemed to me, that at the speaking of gibberish- Miracles happened! And I really wanted God to make that pretty girl notice me; and I really wanted God to allow us to win the State Football Championship; and I really wanted God to heal my Grand-father- who had had a heart attack.

But all of that- stands in stark Contrast to the Miracles of our Lord Christ that we read in the Gospel Records. Because those Miracles exist for the sake of Words. The Words Jesus spoke do NOT exist for the sake of the Miracles He performed.

Jesus performed mighty, stupefying Miracles to underline, highlight, and bold the Font of His Monologues. In other words, the Miracles brought Emphasis to Who Jesus was; What Jesus did; and What Jesus said.

So, the “inbreaking” of the Kingdom of Heaven through mighty Miracles- shown a bright and divine Light on His Teaching and gave them “Divine Credibility”. In other words, the Miracles Jesus did- proved that He was God. That’s what they were for. And that’s why they were rare. And even today- the brilliance of those Miracles cries out to us through the Blackness of our Sins; and they say, “*This is the King of the Universe- listen to Him!*”

So, we find the Good Shepherd telling the Crowds that followed Him to sit down. And we see Him lift five loaves and two fish up to God. And then we watch the Disciples feed as many as 25,000 hungry people with enough food to have twelve baskets of scraps left over (**Matthew 14:16-21**). And we are amazed at that Miracle. And we *should* be.

And so, we should speak of it often. And we should NEVER stop being flabbergasted at that genuine Miracle. But if we stop at the Wonder and the Reality of the Miracle- we are missing the whole Point and the main Purpose of the Miracle.

Because that Miracle of multiplication did NOT happen to simply fill the stomachs of the hungry for that one single Day- because every single person, who ate of that Miracle that day, got hungry again. And every single one of those people had to eat again- this time a more normal Meal. So, if that is all that was happening with that Miracle- it would have been a colossal Waste of Time and God’s Power.

So, it wasn’t the only thing that was happening. It isn’t even the most *important* thing that was happening. No, that Miracle of multiplying Bread and Fish prepared those people- and us- 2,000 years later- to hear and understand what Jesus meant when He said,

**I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. (John 6:35)**

Jesus told the paralytic to rise and walk- NOT to merely give that Man a “better Life” for another 10, 20, or 30 years before he died- but to *prove* an infinitely MORE scandalous Claim, “*Jesus has the Authority to do what ONLY God can do- forgive Sins!*”



... and then to force people to ask the Question:

*How should we respond to a Man who can forgive our Sin?*

Jesus raised Lazarus from the Dead- NOT to merely give him more time to be with his Family until he died the 2<sup>nd</sup> Time- but as the “Exclamation Point” to the Sentences,

**I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. (John 11:25b&26a)**

When Jesus uttered His Voice- the Water turned to the finest Wine; the Storm stopped; the Wind and the Seas obeyed; blind eyes were opened; and demons begged to depart and enter the swine. Why? So, those people could be astonished? Yes, but more importantly, so, those people back then as well as people today would ask,

**“Who then is this?” (Mark 4:41)**

Sadly, even as Charlie was training to be a Doctor; and as he occasionally prayed for Miracles- he refused to ask that Question; or to reckon with the other Teachings of the incarnate Christ. He, along with so many others simply wanted his own fairy godmother- to wave her Wand- temporarily satisfying his own sinful Lusts and Wants- while singing,

When you wish upon a Star  
Makes no difference who you are  
Anything your Heart desires  
Will come to you  
If your Heart is in your Dream  
No Request is too extreme  
When you wish upon a Star  
As Dreamers do  
Like a Bolt out of the Blue  
Fate steps in and sees you through  
When you wish upon a Star  
Your dreams come true

... but thanks be to God- Who loved us too much to play fairy godmother- leaving us to perish eternally in our Sins!

Right in the middle of the most vivid Prophecy of the Savior's Atonement and subsequent Resurrection, the Prophet penned these inspired Words:

**Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried... (Isaiah 53:4a)**

So, instead of waving a Wand- this suffering Servant of God would choose to bear *our* Grievs and carry *our* Sorrows. How?

Well, strangely- the Apostle Matthew indicates that the Fulfillment of this Old Covenant Promise happened- NOT when Jesus hung screaming on the Cross as God's Wrath was being poured out on Him- but when Jesus went to Peter's house and healed his mother-in-law who lay sick with a Fever (along with many others who they brought to him later that evening, **Matthew 8:14-17**).

How could that be? The Point the forgiven Tax-collector wanted us to see- was that Jesus is a compassionate Savior toward the various Infections that plague us in this Life. So, He gladly took Detours- by periodically *inconveniencing* Himself- on His Path to redeem Humanity- by something *seemingly* insignificant- like healing the likes of Peter's mother-in-law of a Fever.

But Jesus doesn't heal sick bodies to ONLY tell us about Eternal Life- He genuinely desires and delights to carry what afflicts us. He cares about our bodies and our souls- BOTH now and in Eternity.

But Jesus's *primary* Mission was to break through all the Darkness of the horrendous "Bad News" of our Sin and Rebellion against God- by preaching incredibly "Good News" of Him alone providing both Forgiveness and Righteousness to guilty rebels- who are gifted with the Ability and Desire to believe. And then to bear our Iniquities upon the cruel and violent Cross.

At the beginning of His Ministry, Jesus confused His Disciples by leaving the Town in which many were seeking Him for *more* Miracles, saying, **Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for. (Mark 1:38)**

So, Jesus withdrew from that Town- as well as coming out of Heaven- for that singular Purpose: NOT to entertain; NOT to be crowned a King; NOT to fulfill the Jew's carnal Desires to recover their Nation from the pagan Romans; and NOT even to heal all Sickness and deliver from all Suffering in Galilee- or the world- but to preach Good News to lost and guilty Sinners; and then to die and rise again to make their Salvation Certain.

And that means that ALL His Wonders; ALL Jesus' Signs and mighty Works- command people to sit down eagerly; to stop telling Jesus what they want; and to take notes. That's what Miracles are for- to tell us what is MOST important: To know; to understand; and to delight- in WHO Jesus is; WHAT Jesus alone has done; and WHAT Jesus has said.

But in order to accomplish all three- we must be quiet; we must stop talking; and we must listen; and look; and think. And so, Miracles happen to silence us; to astound us into a holy Quietness; a glorious Stillness- so we can hear and see Jesus!

Back in 1982- I thought it was important for me to lay out the Ways that would lead us all into "*Divine Healing*". But when that weak, sick little girl was born with that cloud over her eyes- and *especially* when she got so much more sicker; and then as she lay there dying- grinding her teeth at night because of the Pain- I learned to hush; and to be still; and to set aside all my Thoughts and Ideas; and to behold the Power; and the Wonder; and the Glory; of an invincible God- through the Weakness and the Frailty of a mentally impaired little girl, who was dying.

But 2,000 years earlier, Nicodemus realized this same thing when he said,

**Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him. (John 3:2)**

... *why* did he say that?

It was the Miracles that Jesus performed that *confirmed* in Nicodemus' mind that Jesus was a "Teacher sent from God"- and NOT simply a traveling Miracle-worker.

When I was first saved- in 1971- I was so very naïve. And I thought that any Statement; any Song; or anything that contained the words, "*God*" or "*Jesus*"; or "*Bible*" in it- was "spiritual songs" and were great. And so, for a Time- *before* I realized just how blasphemous it really was- I was caught up in a Broadway Musical called, "*Jesus Christ- Superstar*".

And in that Musical- one of the Songs was sung by a man playing the role of King Herod- the wicked Ruler of Palestine at the Time. And this evil Man didn't believe- but wanted to see Jesus perform a Miracle- NOT so he could fall on his face before Jesus and repent and be saved- but so he could witness an open show of Glory and be entertained.

And the Song he sang had a line in it that said,

*"Prove to me that You're no fool; walk across my swimming pool"*

... and for some reason- that line stuck with me.

So, as I began to go to Church; and attend Prayer Meetings; and engage in various “Healing Services”- where sick and desperate people would form a Line; be dabbed with oil; and prayed for- so they could be healed- as I listened to many of their Reasons; and their Logic; and their Man-made Theology as to *why* God should heal them. And to my Surprise- many of them sounded just like that Song. Those people didn’t want to *worship* Jesus- they simply wanted to be “wowed”- so they could be entertained by a silly, ignorant, court-jester- that would dance and perform for them- that they *called*, “*Jesus*”.

But the Miracles proved that Jesus was and is a much better Savior than we could have ever imagined. And even though His Miracles came with Teachings that made thousands say,

**“This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” (John 6:60)**

... as they turned away and left Jesus standing in the middle of the Road- a few remained with Him.

Why? Because the Father has revealed to them that ONLY Jesus has **“the Words of eternal Life” (John 6:68b)** and there is NO other Option besides Jesus.

Witches and Warlocks and Magicians and fairy Godmothers prepare us for the evening Ball- but then require nothing else from us. But Jesus prepares us to meet God in Heaven- by washing our Sins away; and then conforming us to **“His Glory and Excellence” (2Peter 1:3)**. The Father sent the Son to perform mighty Works (Miracles), NOT merely because the world has too few of them; and also NOT because we have supposedly been abused by our evil stepsisters- but because we stood Condemned in Adam.

And so, Jesus didn’t cry, “*Abra-Cadabra*” and then wave His Wand. Instead, He hung on a Cross in Humiliation- and screamed in Agony, “*Eli, Eli, Lama-Sabachthani*” (*My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me?* **Matthew 27:46**)- as He bowed His Head and died!

But He also rose again and proclaimed, **“the Power of God for Salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16)** while giving us safe Instructions to obey (**Matthew 28:20**); so, we would abide forever in His Love (**John 5:10**).

Now even though Israel loved the idea of a King who fed them; healed them; and amazed them with miraculous Wonders- those who believed- made Jesus a different Crown when He called them to deny themselves; repent of their Sins; pick up their Crosses; follow Him; love Him above all; and come to Him. Those people despised those Words. And after Jesus said those things- it didn’t even matter that He had performed earth-shattering Miracles right before them. They

still hated Him and wanted Him to die! So, the Crown they gave Him was a Crown of Thorns.

In their fallen Sins- the ancient Jews enjoyed the Prophets- who brought *some* of Heaven's Comforts to earth. But they hated the God Who exposed their Nakedness; and offered His Own Righteousness instead. So, when the Wine ran out; the Music stopped; the Meal was over; and the Entertainment was done- when they decided Jesus had said enough- they chose Barabbas.

Now why does any of this matter? One reason is that Jesus cares about our Bodies as well as our Souls. And He cares right now- as well as in Eternity. So, what will be our Safety when Evil increases and seems to dominate in our Country? *Loving the Truth- right now!* Because those who are swept away with the latest Fad (both in and out of the Church) and deceived- are those who **“refused to receive a Love of the Truth so as to be saved.” (2Thessalonians 2:10).**

So, we must resist the Temptation to be *dominated* by our Emotions. But we must also resist the Temptation to be *separated* from our Emotions. Both extremes are Dangerous; and both are Unbiblical. God saves us- so we can become “Lovers”- Lovers of God; Lovers of Truth; and Lovers of people- even the people who hate us.

But we know we can trust what Jesus taught- precisely because God honored what He taught by complimenting them with Miraculous Signs and Wonders. The unknown writer was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to say this in **Hebrews 2:3&4:**

**3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.**

So, we are to love what Jesus taught- that was confirmed by gracious and powerful Miracles; Signs; Wonders; and spiritual Gifts. And that includes what the risen Christ *continued* to teach through His Apostles. And that is what will protect us from the *false* Miracles that God will allow to fill our Facebook pages; and evening News Segments in the Future- to test us- so, that we may know whether we love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our souls (**Deuteronomy 13:2&3**).

So, why did Jesus heal the Sick and cast out Demons? So, we would have Confidence that what Jesus and His Apostles taught was absolutely and solely from God. Those supernatural Signs were given to assign “Divine Credibility” to the radical Theology of the New Covenant. They were NEVER meant to be “all

inclusive”; they were NEVER meant to be permanent; and they were NEVER meant to be an Example of what we would do.

So, let the Miracles lead you, like the Star of Bethlehem, to the Son of God, to hear what He says about Himself. And, in hearing and believing- we will have “Life in His Name”. In **John 20:30&31**- the Apostle John infallibly wrote:

**30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;**

**31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.**

Amen. Let’s pray.

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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.

