

Matthew 9

ASVh with Comments

Summary. Chapter 8 shows that the Lord Jesus has authority and power over the Word, sicknesses, spirits, and the winds and the sea. In Chapter 9, we see the same trend of authority and power, including authority over the forgiveness of sins. All these show people that the Lord Jesus is the Lord above all, and He is God. Throughout this chapter, we see four themes. 1) The Lord Jesus is the Lord above all, and He is God. a) He has the authority to forgive sins and the power to heal and give life. He forgives sins and heals a paralytic, restores the ruler's daughter to life by His word, heals a woman with bleeding when she touches His garment, and heals two blind men by touching their eyes. b) The Lord Jesus has authority over spirits. He heals the demon-oppressed man who is mute. c) He has authority over the Word. He tells Matthew, "Follow me," and Matthew leaves his job and follows the Lord Jesus. Afterward, the Lord teaches the way at the sinner's table. 2) The Lord Jesus shows mercy on the messenger (John). He tells John's disciples that they cannot mix John's teachings with the Pharisees' teachings by giving them the parables of the old garment and old wineskins. 3) The Lord Jesus is accused directly and indirectly by the Pharisees. Crowds follow the Lord, causing the jealousy of the Pharisees and scribes to grow, and they start to bring public accusations against His work on earth. 4) The harvest is plentiful, and the laborers are few. The Lord Jesus has compassion on the crowds and tells His disciples to pray for mercy from the Father to open the way for the disciples to work in the harvest.

9¹ And **He** entered into a boat, crossed over, and came to **His** own city.

Comments 9:1. "... His own city." The city of Nazareth (See Matthew 2:23).

2 And behold, they brought to **Him** a paralytic, lying on a mat. And **Jesus** having seen their faith said to the paralytic, Son, be of good courage; your sins are forgiven.

Comments 9:2. The Lord saw the faith in this man. His heart was searching for the Lord, not for healing. He came to worship the Lord. The Lord showed him mercy according to his heart. Forgiveness of sins and healing were given.

3 And behold, certain of the scribes said to themselves, This **blasphemes**.

4 And **Jesus** knowing their thoughts said, **So, why do you** think evil in your hearts?

5 For which is easier, to say, **Your** sins are forgiven; or to say, Arise, and walk?

6 But that **you** may know that the **Son of Man** has authority on the earth to forgive sins... Then **He** says to the paralytic, Arise, take up your mat, and go up to your family.

Comments 9:6. The paralytic's healing shows that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins. He has authority over every living breath on earth. Even sickness is also under His authority; the Lord Jesus is the Lord of all.

7 And **having arisen**, he departed to his family.

8 When the multitudes saw it, they were afraid, and glorified **God**, who had given such authority to men.

9 And **Jesus** passing by from there, **He** saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the tax booth; and **He** says to him, Follow **Me**. And **having arisen**, he followed **Him**.

Comments 9:9. The Lord Jesus' disciples are special. They do not see but feel the authority of Jesus; they feel they belong to the Lord Jesus. The disciples' eyes were opened to see the Lord Jesus, not because the Lord Jesus looked different, but because their eyes and hearts were opened to see Him as their Lord.

10 And it happened: **He** was reclining in the house, and behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with **Jesus** and **His** disciples.

Comments 9:10. By the title, Teacher, they invite the Lord Jesus as a teacher, not as a guest. The door is open, and the teacher's duty is to teach them. However, as a participant, you cannot attend such gatherings; if they invite you as a speaker, you can go.

See also Luke 5:27-30.

¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to **His** disciples, Why does your **Teacher** eat with the tax collectors and sinners?

Comments 9:11. The Lord Jesus joined the food but did not join the lifestyle of the tax collectors and sinners. The purpose of joining is important. Do not join to be alike, but join to show a different lifestyle. The purpose the Lord joined the table was to teach them, not to follow them.

¹² And having heard, **He** said, **Those being strong** have no need of a physician, but **those being** sick.

¹³ **However, you go**, learn what it is: **I** desire mercy, and not sacrifice, for **I** came not to call the righteous, but **sinners**.

¹⁴ Then **came** to **Him** the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but **Thy** disciples **do** not fast?

Comments 9:14. Notice the term “Pharisees” used in their question. John’s disciples mingled with the Pharisees and wanted to accept their teachings and abandon John’s teachings. That is why the Lord Jesus gave them the old garment and the old wine-skins parables. It was wrong for John’s disciples to mingle with the Pharisees and listen to their advice. Here, the Lord has mercy on the messenger, John, and He teaches John’s disciples to go back to him and not to mingle with the Pharisees.

¹⁵ And **Jesus** said to them, The sons of the bridechamber cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them; **however**, the days will come, when the bridegroom **will be lift off** from them, and then they will fast.

Comments 9:15. In this verse, the Lord speaks of what will come later. Jesus’ love is greater than His own suffering. His suffering on the cross is not just for them alone, but for all humans, and not just for now but until everyone will be judged.

¹⁶ **However**, no one puts a patch of **unprepared** cloth upon an old garment; for **the filling** up of it **tears away** from the garment, and a worse **tear** is made.

Comments 9:16. In this parable, the Lord tells the disciples of John to separate themselves from the Pharisees.

¹⁷ Neither **pour they** new wine into old wineskins; **otherwise**, the wineskins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the wineskins **are destroyed**; but they **pour** new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.

Comments 9:16-17. The “unprepared (unshrunk) cloth” and the “new wine” represent the new teachings of John about the Messiah being the Lamb of God who is coming to sacrifice Himself for the human race (See John 1:29). The “old garment” and the “old wineskins” represent the teachings of the Pharisees and scribes. They promote their word to have equal authority with God’s Word. But this is an abomination to put themselves at the same level as God.

The “tear” and “burst” mean that the new teachings of John cannot be mixed with the teachings of the Pharisees. The parables show John’s disciples that the Pharisees will not accept the new teachings of John and will reject them. And for them, trying to mix the two teachings was wrong and will damage their calling.

¹⁸ While **He** was speaking these things to them, behold, a **certain ruler** came, **kneeling down to Him**, saying, My daughter **just now has died**; but come, lay **Thy** hand upon her, and she **will** live.

Comments 9:18. This ruler acknowledges the Lord’s authority above all, both the dead and the living. He actually acknowledged the Lord Jesus as God in front of people.

¹⁹ And **Jesus** arose, followed him, **also His** disciples.

²⁰ And behold, a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, having come behind, touched the **fringe** of **His** garment;

²¹ for she said within herself, If I **only may** touch **His** garment, I will be **healed**.

²² And **Jesus** turning and seeing her said, Daughter, **take courage**; your faith has **healed you**. And the woman was **healed** from that hour.

Comments 9:20-22. This woman, if she touches something that belongs to the Lord Jesus, in her belief, His power is there as well. Her faith has paid her well. For more comments about this healing, see also Mark 5:25-34 and Luke 8:43-48.

²³ And **Jesus** came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute-players, and the crowd making a commotion;

²⁴ **He** said, **Depart**: for the damsel is not dead, but **sleeps**. And they **ridiculed Him**.

Comments 9:24. "... the damsel is not dead, but sleeps." The ruler's daughter was not dead yet; she was just in a coma. Her spirit was still holding onto her body.

²⁵ **Now** when the crowd **had been put out**, **He** entered in, took **hold** of her hand, and the damsel arose.

Comments 9:25. "... and the damsel arose." The girl's spirit was stuck in the dark and could not find the way back to her body. The body cannot wake up without the spirit. The Lord Jesus opened the path for her spirit to join back with her body. He commanded the spirit to join back with the soul and body and be at peace.

²⁶ And **this report** went **out** into all that land.

²⁷ And as **Jesus** passed by from **there**, two **blinds** followed **Him**, crying out, and saying, Have mercy on us, **Son of David**.

Comments 9:27. David was as God in the eyes of people. These ones really recognized the Lord Jesus as the Son of God. See also Comments Mark 10:46-52.

²⁸ **Now having** come into the house, the **blinds** came to **Him**, and **Jesus** says to them, **Do you believe** that **I** am able to do this? They say to **Him**, **Yes, Lord**.

Comments 9:28. "... the blinds came to Him." This shows action from these ones who are seeking the mercy of the Lord. They believe that the Lord Jesus can heal them.

"... They say to Him, Yes, Lord." These blinds were blind in their eyes, but they could see with their hearts, and they acknowledged the Lord Jesus as God.

²⁹ Then **He** touched their eyes, saying, **According to your faith let it be to you**.

Comments 9:29. The Lord Jesus touched their eyes because they acknowledged Him as God.

³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And **Jesus** strictly **instructed** them, saying, See that no **one** knows.

Comments 9:30. "See that no one knows." The Lord Jesus wants people to come to Him because of the message He brings, not because of the works He does on earth. He wants people to believe that He is the Son of God and He is the way to heaven.

³¹ But they went **out**; **they made Him** known in all that land.

Comments 9:31. They did a good work. They told and showed people who the Lord Jesus was with proof. The Lord wants us to do works for Him by our own initiative from our hearts, without Him telling us. What the Lord puts in our hearts, and not what we think with our heads, is what we should do.

³² And as they **were going out**, behold, **they** brought to **Him** a **mute** man possessed by a demon.

Comments 9:32. Because the Lord Jesus was on the earth, and now, because the Holy Spirit occupies the earth, these dark things cannot show their power anymore.

³³ And when the demon was cast out, the **mute** man **spoke**; and the multitudes **marveled**, saying, It was never **thus** seen in Israel.

³⁴ **Now** the Pharisees said, By the **chief** of the demons **He** casts out demons.

³⁵ And **Jesus** went about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and **proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom, and healing **every** disease and **every** sickness.

Comments 9:35. "... proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom." The Gospel's main points are:

1. The forgiveness of sins through the Lord Jesus, the Son of God.
2. A chance to be forgiven by the Father through His Son.
3. The Lord Jesus is the only way out for mankind.
4. Come to the Lord Jesus.

³⁶ Now having seen the multitudes, **He felt** compassion for them, because they were distressed and **cast aside**, as sheep not having a shepherd.

³⁷ Then **He says to His** disciples, The harvest indeed is **plentiful, however**, the laborers are few.

Comments 9:37. “The harvest indeed is plentiful” means that there are many lost souls.

“The laborers” are the ones who are willing to leave everything and work for the Lord; the pay given to them will be according to their commitment.

³⁸ Therefore, **pray to the Lord** of the harvest, that **He sends out** laborers into **His** harvest.

Comments 9:38. “The Lord of the harvest” is the Father.

“His harvest” refers to the lost souls in the world.

Life and Faith Applications. 1) We must believe that the Lord Jesus is God. His works testify to this, and we should not doubt His authority and power as God. 2) We cannot mix the teachings of the Lord Jesus with any other human teachings. 3) We must always pray to the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit for missionaries, pastors, and workers.