

A Different King

Jesus Exercises His Authority Matthew 9:14—10:20

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness...He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.”

Matthew 9:35; 10:1

1. Read Matthew 9:14–17. What are the two illustrations in verses 16 and 17 that describe the relationship between the existing Jewish system and Jesus’ new kingdom?
 - a. How do they relate to John’s disciples question about fasting?
 - b. What is Jesus saying about his new kingdom?

2. Read Matthew 9:18–38. How does Jesus respond to those seeking to be healed? When Jesus said that a person had been healed because of their faith, what did he mean by faith?

3. In Jewish society, strict codes existed concerning what could and could not be touched. At the top of the “do not touch” list were menstruating women and dead people; touching them made a person “unclean” and required a course of ritual cleansing.
 - a. How does Jesus approach the “do not touch” regulations? (verses 20, 21, 25)

 - b. When Jesus touches the woman and dead girl, he does not become unclean; instead, they become clean. How does this illustrate what happens to us spiritually? (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24) Describe how Jesus has made you “clean.”

4. The two blind men following Jesus call out for mercy and address him as the “Son of David” (verse 27). What would these cries have called up in the minds of those who were listening? (2 Samuel 7:8, 11b–14, 16; Luke 1:32–33)

5. After healing the blind men, Jesus casts out a demon from a mute man and restores his ability to speak. What reason do the Pharisees come up with to explain the power of Jesus? Why?

6. What does Jesus mean when he says that the harvest is plentiful? (verse 37) What does Jesus ask the disciples to pray for? How does this command apply to us today?

7. Read Matthew 10:1–20. Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples out on their own? Describe their mission.

8. Picture what it would be like to be a sheep surrounded by a pack of snarling wolves. (verse 16) Why does Jesus use this word picture? How does he tell his disciples to respond?

9. Describe a time when you have experienced opposition because of your faith in Jesus. What do you think it might look like for you to be as “shrewd as a snake and innocent as a dove” in your relationships?

10. What does Jesus promise to us when we experience opposition because of our faith in him? Have you experienced this in your own life? Describe.