Mat 81

Active Faith means a strong faith that steps forward.

We have covered the majority of what the Spirit has led me to teach on chapter 8 so we are ready to jump into Matthew chapter nine.

Before we do I want to mention that some of our Royal Family in California…Matt & Kim… are setting up a small Bible Conference. Mark the date on your calendar if you are interested it will be in California on the last weekend of June.

 More information to come in the next few weeks.

Mat 9:1 Getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over *the sea* and came to His own city.

/Mat 9:2 And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. **Seeing their faith**, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, **son** *(teknon*); **your sins are forgiven**.”\

Mat 9:3 And some of the scribes said to themselves, “This *fellow* blasphemes.”

Mat 9:4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?

Mat 9:5 “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, and walk’?

Mat 9:6 “But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.”

Mat 9:7 And he got up and went home. 8 But when the crowds saw *this,* they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

TLJC left the area we noted in chapter 8 GAD-DARN-EE-US because they were upset that He had exposed the black market of swine once He cast out the demons in that area.

You will not see the Lord go back to that area again. Showing us that once we reject the Lord and become hostile toward Him…He will respect your wishes and stay clear of you.

Now He would teach in and around that area but not directly in that town again. So now He has moved onto to an area He was familiar with.

In verse 2 on the board…we are looking a Bel, in fact the ones carrying the paralyzed man are Bels. Jesus sees their faith.

They are showing faith in what they are doing…carrying a sick man to the only one they know can heal him.

The Greek word TLJC uses to talk to this man is TEKNON…a word for a child who is being taught. One who is under authority…this is a BEL.

You will notice these scriptures don’t point to belief… but forgiveness.

The word *forgiven* is in the Greek present tense meaning it continues onward…it is valid in the moment with the effect that it carries into the future.

/Mat 9:1-8 is dealing with Bels. This one in particular is a Bel who is paralyzed and lacks faith in his relationship with Christ. His faith was fleeting, his faith was significant for salvation yet he was now dealing with MA sins; doubt, worry, anxiety about eternity & the power of Christ.\

Some scholars believe this man had become openly negative toward the Lord because he had not yet been healed and he had been saved for a period of time.

Possibly several months or longer.

The Lord wasn’t focused on healing He was focused on giving this man Bible Doctrine to sustain him.

As I had already mentioned to you TLJC didn’t come to heal everyone…for that matter He didn’t come to heal all the Bels who followed Him in His humanity.

This scene became a stumbling block for many who were witnessing this…certainly the legalistic Scribes who had followed along. Look what the Lord says in verses 5 & 6;

/Mat 9:5 “**Which is easier,** to say, ‘Your sins are **forgiven**,’ or to say, ‘Get up, and **walk**’?

The easier path for the Lord is miracles, signs and healings. Forgiveness takes free will on the part of man.\

ELABORATE

It is much more difficult for God to reconcile two people than to heal a cripple person. REPEAT!!!!

And as I have taught you in the past lessons the signs and healings and miracles were for a specific purpose and time period.

The Pharisees could always say they forgave sins and there were offerings and sacrifice for sins. Yet they had no power to truly forgive sin nor did they have power for healing.

The Lord is letting them witness several principles in this one scene.

/Mat 9:6 “But **so that you may know** that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.”\

The Lord is highlighting the fact that He is the one who cleanses sin and only His power can heal a paralyzed man.

And if you know scripture only God can cleanse sins and heal the terminally ill.

So the Scribes already have negative volition toward Jesus…but in contrast to them the men who carried the paralyzed man had strong faith.

/Their active faith in bringing the paralyzed man to the Lord was important to note, they took time and effort to carry this man to Christ. If they operated in passive faith, he may never have been healed.\

Often the couch potato Christian will complain that they are not being used by God or that they don’t see God working in their lives, and it is because they put no effort into searching God out and no strength in having true fellowship with God. REPEAT!!!

This type of Bels often quits when the obstacles pop up in their path. Satan loves this type of Bels…all he has to do is bring in some disturbance or difficulty and they quit.

/How difficult do you think it got at the end of the 3 year ministry when the majority turned on Him, yet He completed the mission. The same question can be asked about the Apostles after Christ ascended back to heaven.\

What if they quit before the completed canon of scripture…or better yet what of the Lord quit before the Cross?!!!

Did you ever think about that.

Did you ever consider the attacks and pressure on TLJC leading up to the Cross?

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you, JESUS reminds us - ‘A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

/1Pet 3:14 But e**ven if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness,** you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,

Peter mentions this because he wants his congregation to be aware that challenges and difficulties are part of the Christian walk in time.\

A Pastor who does not prepare his congregation or even worse…teaches them all emotional nonsense is grossly negligent in his duties.

The Apostles prepared their followers.

/1Peter 4:1 Therefore, **since Christ has suffered in the flesh**, **arm yourselves** also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,\

Peter is telling his followers to be prepared…Christ suffered, we should expect the same, at least on some level.

We will never see that level of suffering most of us will never see the level a Job or Moses faced either.

/1Pe 4:2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh **no longer for the lusts of men,** but for the will of God.\

Turn to 1Peter chapter 5 with me.

Get focused on your relationship with God, wash the fleshly desires off your conscience when the rise up.

We live in the devil’s world and we have an OSN nagging at us every day to take control of our soul.

There are going to be battles mentally and physically that we are called to fight and many will stem from the spiritual realm. LOOK AT…..

1Pe 5:8 Be of sober *spirit,* be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1Pe 5:9 But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

You fight the devil with Bible doctrine in your soul…you stand firm and resist.

Knowing that all Bels face adversity…you are not alone… someone…. somewhere has endured more than you have.

/1Pe 5:10 **After you have suffered for a little while**, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself **perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you**.\

That is a matter of fact statement.

ELABORATE!!!!

GROWTH COMES FROM STRUGGLES.

1Pe 5:11 To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look at the words of Jesus concerning the Bels living in this current world.

/Jhn 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, so that **in Me** you may have peace. **In the world you have tribulation**, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”\

Jump into 2Cor chapter 4 and we will get ready to close.

Your peace does not come from cosmic viewpoint or self-help programs… it is only in Christ. It is He that has overcome the devil’s world.

/Active faith is the Bel in a position of strength (filling power of HS & BD) operating inside God’s plan with consistency not perfection. This faith can recognize when to move forward, and when to stand firm, it doesn’t not find comfort in retreat.\ REPEAT!!

There are very few times that a Bel is told to retreat when operating inside the PPOG. It is a rare occurrence.

Look what the Apostle Paul teaches us.

2Co 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

Your OSN is not getting healthier every day it just gets more frustrated and devious as we grow older, it looks for new avenues to get out as the New Nature dominates the old one.

/2Co 4:17 **For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight** of glory far beyond all comparison,\

Paul considers any suffering light because when it is viewed from the eternal standpoint it is a drop in the bucket!

/2Co 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; **for the things which are seen are temporal**, but the things which are not seen are eternal.\

There is an old saying concerning how we look at things…you know the glass is either half empty or half full.

The Christian needs to get the perspective of eternal security.

Simply compare a 100 years to a thousand and think in terms like that.

If we live nearly a hundred years and during that 100 yrs we have times of adversity or suffering a few months here and there… maybe even a 4 or 5 years what does that look like compared on a scale of a thousand years…like no big deal right?

Think about eternal life compared to 80 or 100 yrs.

The fact is a Christian who desire to walk inside the plan of God will face adversity.

/2Tim 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted**.\

The level of persecution or difficulties may be different each year that passes us by…. but the challenges will be out there and as a Pastor-teacher I should be able to level with my people.

Truth is all that matters and sometimes truth is not pleasant and it doesn’t always play out in our favor.

But in the end God is a rewarder and protector of those who diligently seek Him.

TLJC is our future husband He won’t let us down…have some faith.

/Most Bels develop a passive faith after they cool off from salvation. Their relationship with the Lord slowly slips down the priority ladder and whatever drops in their lap concerning spiritual growth or guidance is all they expect.\

This is much different than an active faith.

I believe an example of active faith is what Mat & Kim are doing with this California conference…it could be 5 people that show up or 55 they simply do not know. It may touch one life or dozens in the long run.

/The Bel with an active faith is hungry for truth, seeking answers from Bible Doctrine and willing to step out in situations when God the Holy Spirit is leading them. This Bel usually has a zest for life and operates with great love & grace in the majority of their relationships.\

I’ll finish by repeating this slide for you because as we get into the next message we will need to do a 3 or 4 part series on forgiveness.

/Mat 9:5 “**Which is easier,** to say, ‘Your sins are **forgiven**,’ or to say, ‘Get up, and **walk**’?

The easier path for the Lord is miracles, signs and healings. Forgiveness takes free will on the man’s part.\

We will need to dive into repentance in the Biblical sense and the Bels responsibility to name and cite any known sins. REBOUND