

More Authority (Matthew 8:28 – 9:8)

Introduction

- What are we seeing about the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 8 – 9?

i Jesus' authority over the powers of darkness

- How might local people have thought about the two demon-possessed men in v28-29?
- What do the demons recognise about Jesus?
- What does the demons' destruction of the pigs show in v30-32?
- How do the local people react in v33-34?
- What is the first lesson we can learn from this passage?
- What are demons like?
- And what do they want?
- How should this make us feel?
- In what ways do the demons have to submit to Jesus' authority?
- What is the ultimate fate of demonic powers?
- How should we respond to Jesus in view of all this?
- What is the second lesson we can learn from this passage?
- Why do the local people ask Jesus to leave?

- How does Jesus respond?
- Why is this so sad?
- What might we prefer to Christ?
- What must you do if you are cherishing something above Jesus?

## ii Jesus authority to forgive sins

- What is Jesus' home town in v1?
- What moves Jesus in v2?
- What is surprising about what Jesus says in v2?
- How do the teachers of the law reason in v3?
- How does Jesus set up a tense moment in v4-6?
- What happens in v7?
- How do people react in v8?
- What lesson does this passage teach us?
- How does Jesus show that forgiveness is more important than healing?
- Why is this the case?
- How can Jesus forgive sins?
- What truths make the gift of forgiveness particularly brilliant?
- How should we respond to Jesus in view of all this?