

## Matthew 8:23-9:13 Study Guide

### Big Idea: The Power of Christ Over Sin

1. Read Matthew 8:23-27. Why do you think Jesus led his new followers into a storm? What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. Read Matthew 8:28-34. What does this passage reveal to us about demons and what does it teach us about Jesus?
3. Read Matthew 9:1-8. Why do you think it was more powerful for Jesus to claim authority to forgive sin, than to heal the paralytic? What are the implications of being forgiven of our sins?
4. Read Matthew 9:9-13. How could such a hated traitor be invited to become a follower of Jesus? What does that say about Jesus?

### Conclusion

Jesus demonstrated his authority over nature, demons and sickness to show us that only He has the authority to forgive us our sins. If Jesus is that powerful, will you believe today that He holds the power for your acquittal before God?

Take a few minutes to pray privately, thanking God for His proven authority to forgive all your sins. Ask Him to set you free from guilt, shame and religious performance. Choose to follow Him as Matthew did, leaving the old life behind, and taking a risk to fully follow Jesus.

## Message Outline

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#### A. Power Over Nature (v.23-27)

<sup>23</sup>And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup>And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. <sup>25</sup>And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." <sup>26</sup>And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup>And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"  
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**I marvel because Jesus has power over nature!**

#### B. Power over Demons (v.28-34)

<sup>28</sup>And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. <sup>29</sup>And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" <sup>30</sup>Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. <sup>31</sup>And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs." <sup>32</sup>And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. <sup>33</sup>The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they

told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. <sup>34</sup> And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

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**I marvel because Jesus has power over the supernatural!**

### **C. Power over Sin (9:1-8)**

And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. <sup>2</sup> And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." <sup>3</sup> And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." <sup>4</sup> But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup> For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? <sup>6</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." <sup>7</sup> And he rose and went home. <sup>8</sup> When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

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**I marvel because Jesus has the power to forgive my sins.**

### **D. Follow Me No Matter Who You Are (9:9-13)**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

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### **Matt. 28:18**

"All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth..."

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