

Brandon Phillips / General Adult

The King and His Glory / Miracles of Christ; Death; Disease / Matthew 9:18–26

In Matthew 9:23-26, Matthew gives the final aspect of Jesus' character that invites us to a deeper faith in Him. In our study of Jesus's authority, we will find two clear examples.

Pre-sermon Comments

Truth is the necessary condition of unity and, as a result, the basis of hospitality. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Exodus 34:6 LSB

⁶ Then Yahweh passed by in front of him and called out, “Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

John 1:14 LSB

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Introduction to our Text

Matthew 9:23–26 LSB

²³ And when Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder, ²⁴ He was saying, “Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep.” And they *began* laughing at Him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been sent out, coming in, He took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And this news spread throughout all that land.

Review Proposition and Outline

In the two miracles recorded in [Matthew 9:18-26](#), Matthew reveals five aspects of Jesus' character that invite us to a deeper faith in Him.

- Jesus Is Always Approachable ([Matthew 9:18](#))
- Jesus Is Always Responsive to Genuine Faith ([Matthew 9:19](#))
- Jesus Is Always Sovereign in His Timing ([Matthew 9:20-21](#))
- Jesus Is Always Compassionate ([Matthew 9:22](#))
- Jesus Is Always Authoritative ([Matthew 9:23-26](#))

Sermon Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 9:23-26](#), Matthew gives the final aspect of Jesus' character that invites us to a deeper faith in Him. In our study, we will find two clear examples of Jesus's authority:

- An Example of Jesus' Human Authority
- An Example of Jesus' Divine Authority

Sermon Text

Matthew 9:18-26 LSB

¹⁸ While He was saying these things to them, behold, a *synagogue* official came and was bowing down before Him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live."¹⁹ And Jesus got up and *began* to follow him, and *so did* His disciples.²⁰ And behold, a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His garment;²¹ for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will be saved *from this*."²² But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has saved you." At once the woman was

saved *from her hemorrhage*.²³ And when Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder,²⁴ He was saying, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they *began* laughing at Him.²⁵ But when the crowd had been sent out, coming in, He took her by the hand, and the girl got up.²⁶ And this news spread throughout all that land.

Review of [Matthew 9:18-22](#)

Jesus Is Always Approachable ([Matthew 9:18](#))

Matthew 9:10–11 LSB

¹⁰ Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining *at the table* in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples.¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?"

Matthew 9:18 LSB

¹⁸ While He was saying these things to them, behold, a *synagogue* official came and was bowing down before Him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live."

Jesus Is Always Responsive to Genuine Faith ([Matthew 9:19](#))

Matthew 9:19 LSB

¹⁹ And Jesus got up and *began to* follow him, and so *did* His disciples.

Jesus Is Always Sovereign in His Timing ([Matthew 9:20-21](#))

Matthew 9:20–21 LSB

²⁰ And behold, a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His garment;²¹ for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will be saved *from this*."

Mark 5:30 LSB

³⁰ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power *proceeding* from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and was saying, “Who touched My garments?”

Jesus Is Always Compassionate ([Matthew 9:22](#))

Matthew 9:22 LSB

²² But Jesus turning and seeing her said, “Daughter, take courage; your faith has saved you.” At once the woman was saved *from her hemorrhage*.n.

Discussion Questions

Pastor Brandon quoted John MacArthur: “Truth is the necessary condition of unity and, as a result, the basis of hospitality.”

- How does truth form the foundation for genuine love and unity within the church?
- What happens when love is emphasized without truth—or truth without love?

Read [Exodus 34:6](#) and [John 1:14](#).

- What do these verses teach us about the relationship between God’s love and His truth?
- How should the example of God’s character shape the way we love and welcome others in our church family?

Pastor Brandon said, “We pray that you will find our love and hospitality to be warmed by the fire of truth.”

- What does this image—“the warmth of love that burns brightly because it’s fueled by truth”—communicate about the kind of community the church should be?

The introduction compared the despair of the Black Death to the grief surrounding Jairus's daughter's death.

- Why do moments of widespread fear or personal loss often reveal what we truly believe about life, death, and eternity?
- How does Christ's authority over death in [Matthew 9:23–26](#) offer hope in a world still marked by suffering and decay?

Pastor Brandon said, “When Jesus entered Jairus's home, He didn't deny the tragedy of death—He redefined it.”

- What does it mean for Jesus to redefine death as sleep?
- How does this reshape the way believers view their own mortality or the loss of loved ones?

When Jesus steps into a scene of despair, Pastor Brandon said, “He doesn't share in the mourning—He transforms it.”

- Have you experienced a moment when Christ transformed a situation of sorrow into one of hope or faith?
- How might this truth equip us to comfort others who are grieving or facing fear of death?

Review the first four aspects of Jesus' character Pastor Brandon listed:

- Jesus is Approachable (v.18)
- Jesus is Responsive to genuine faith (v.19)
- Jesus is Sovereign in His timing (vv.20–21)
- Jesus is Compassionate (v.22)
- Which of these qualities have you personally experienced most vividly in your walk with Christ?

In your own words, how does Jesus' approachability challenge the idea that God is distant or unapproachable?

- How might this truth influence the way we approach Him in prayer—or the way we invite others to come to Him?

The woman with the hemorrhage showed imperfect yet genuine faith.

- What encouragement does that give to those who struggle with doubts or feel that their faith is weak?
- How does Jesus' response to her demonstrate both compassion and sovereignty?

Pastor Brandon summarized, "Jesus is always victorious over death... even in life's darkest moments, the Savior reigns supreme."

- What are some modern "scenes of despair" where this truth still needs to be proclaimed?
- How can believers embody this hope in a culture often defined by fear and finality?

How might a deeper understanding of Jesus' authority strengthen your faith in areas where you feel powerless or afraid?

Jesus Is Always Authoritative ([Matthew 9:23-26](#))

An Example of Jesus' Human Authority

Matthew 9:23 LSB

²³ And when Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder,

The Chaos

Matthew 9:23 NET

²³ When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the disorderly crowd,

Matthew 9:23 ESV

²³ And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,

Mark 5:39 LSB

³⁹ And entering in, He said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and crying? The child has not died, but is asleep."

Jewish Mourning

Genesis 37:34 LSB

³⁴ So Jacob tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.

2 Samuel 1:11–12 LSB

¹¹ Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so also *did* all the men who *were* with him. ¹² And they lamented and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan and for the people of Yahweh and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

Job 1:20 LSB

²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

Mishnah Moed Qatan 3:5–6 — describes who must rend garments and under what circumstances. "All are bound to rend [their garments] for father and mother, and all rend even to the heart."

Moed Qatan 26a–b — expands that the tear is made while standing and must be a handbreadth long.

Tosefta Moed Qatan 2:16–17 — notes that the garment may later be sewn loosely but not fully repaired during the mourning period.

Mishnah Ketubot 4:4 — “Even the poorest in Israel should not hire fewer than two flutes and one wailing woman.”

This shows that public lamentation was considered essential for *kavod hamet* (honoring the dead).

Tosefta Moed Qatan 2:10–11 — confirms that mourning women (mekonenot) led the lament in chant form: “They lament with words, each one responding after the other, saying: ‘Alas! Alas!’”

Moed Qatan 27b — adds that it was a meritorious act to accompany the dead and to lament publicly.

Mishnah Ketubot 4:4 - “Even the poorest must not hire fewer than two flutes and one wailing woman.”

Moed Qatan 27a — mentions “flute players” (chalilim) as a standard accompaniment for funerals.

Josephus, Antiquities 17.8.4 [§213] — records that even Herod the Great’s funeral included a vast number of flute players and mourners.

Jesus’ Human Authority

Matthew 9:24 LSB

²⁴ He was saying, “Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep.” And they *began* laughing at Him.

Acts 9:39–40 LSB

³⁹ So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, crying and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Matthew 9:24 LSB

²⁴ He was saying, “Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep.” And they *began* laughing at Him.

Matthew 9:24 NET

²⁴ he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but asleep.” And they began making fun of him.

Matthew 9:24 NKJV

²⁴ He said to them, “Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him.

That their weeping could so quickly turn to laughter, even mocking laughter, betrayed the fact that their mourning was a paid act and did not reflect genuine sorrow. It also betrayed their complete lack of faith in Jesus’ power to raise the girl from the dead. ~ John MacArthur

Matthew 28:18 LSB

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Dead or Asleep?

John 11:11-14 LSB

¹¹ He said these things, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him.” ¹² The disciples then said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be saved *from his sickness.*” ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of actual sleep. ¹⁴ So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead,

John 11:39 LSB

³⁹ Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, “Lord, by this time he smells, for he has been *dead* four days.”

Mark 5:40 LSB

⁴⁰ And they *began* laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child’s father and mother and His own companions, and entered *the room* where the child was.

An Example of Jesus' Divine Authority

Matthew 9:25 LSB

²⁵ But when the crowd had been sent out, coming in, He took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

Mark 5:40 LSB

⁴⁰ And they *began* laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and entered *the room* where the child was.

Luke 8:51 LSB

⁵¹ So when He came to the house, He did not allow anyone to enter with Him, except Peter and John and James, and the girl's father and mother.

Mark 5:41 LSB

⁴¹ And taking the child by the hand, He said to her, "Talitha kum!" (which translated means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!").

Luke 8:55 LSB

⁵⁵ And her spirit returned, and she stood up immediately. And He gave orders for *something* to be given her to eat.

Matthew 9:26 LSB

²⁶ And this news spread throughout all that land.

Mark 5:43 LSB

⁴³ And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that *some food* should be given to her to eat.

Luke 4:29-30 LSB

²⁹ and they stood up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the edge of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. ³⁰ But passing through their midst, He went on His way.

John 12:9-11 LSB

⁹ Then the large crowd from the Jews learned that He was there. And they came, not because of Jesus only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised

from the dead.¹⁰ But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also;¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

Revelation 1:18 LSB

¹⁸ and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

John 11:25 LSB

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

Jesus’ miracles [including the resurrection from the dead] are decisive evidence for all time of who he is and what power he has. ~ **J. I. Packer**

Conclusion

Faith and Healing

1 Peter 1:6–7 LSB

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,⁷ so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:28 LSB

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Romans 8:29–30 LSB

²⁹ Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers;
³⁰ and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 8:35 LSB

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction, or turmoil, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:37–39 LSB

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Discussion Questions

What contrasts do you notice between the chaotic scene in Jairus's house and the peaceful authority of Jesus' response to it?

Why do you think Jesus told the mourners that the girl was "not dead, but asleep"? What did He mean by that phrase?

How does [Matthew 9:23-26](#) demonstrate both Jesus' human and divine authority?

What role did faith play in this account?

How did Jesus display human authority when He commanded the crowd to leave (v. 24)?

In what ways did He demonstrate divine authority when He raised the girl from the dead (v. 25)?

How does this miracle connect to other passages where Jesus exercised power over sickness, demons, sin, and death?

What do you think this miracle revealed about the identity of Jesus to the witnesses in the room?

The mourners quickly turned from weeping to mocking. What does that reveal about the superficiality of their faith?

How might we see similar attitudes of doubt or ridicule toward Christ's authority in our own culture?

How should believers respond when others mock our confidence in the power and promises of Christ?

Pastor Brandon mentioned that Jesus does not always heal US in this life, but He always gives US assurance. How do passages like [Romans 8:28-39](#) and [1 Peter 1:6-7](#) strengthen that assurance?

How can believers hold onto the truth of Jesus' authority when facing illness, loss, or grief?

How does the resurrection of Jairus's daughter point to the ultimate resurrection hope believers have in Christ ([John 11:25](#); [Revelation 1:18](#))?

How do you personally respond to Jesus' authority — with submission and faith, or sometimes with resistance and doubt?

What situations in your life right now require you to trust Jesus' authority and timing more fully?

When was a time you saw God bring order out of chaos, like Jesus did in Jairus's home?

How can we encourage one another to rest in Christ's authority, even when His purposes are not immediately clear?

Pastor Brandon quoted J.I. Packer: "Jesus' miracles are decisive evidence for all time of who He is and what power He has." How does this truth shape the way you view the Gospels, your faith, and the world's rejection of Christ?

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

[Gen 1:1](#)—In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth

[Psalm 24:1](#)—The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.

Is Perfectly Holy

[1 John 1:5](#)—This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

[Matt 5:48](#)—Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[James 2:10](#)—for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Man

Has broken God's law

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[Rom. 6:23](#)—For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—*But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—*And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—*Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

[Luke 9:23](#)—*if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—*that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.*

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—*therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.*

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

Brandon.Phillips@gracegainesville.org

Keith.Kemp@gracegainesville.org

Additional Quotes

Jesus also, by implication, direct statement, and deed, claims power over life and death. ~ **Millard J. Erickson**

There is nothing holier, or better, or safer, than to content ourselves with the authority of Christ alone. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

It is as unbiblical as it is unrealistic to divorce the lordship from the Saviourhood of Jesus Christ. ~ **John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

The consistent presentation of Jesus' upper hand in these controversies provides another ground for the answer to the choice posed by the leaders' question. Jesus' responses and work show that he has divinely bestowed authority. ~ **Darrell L. Bock**

Think not of the sinner, or of the greatness of his sin, but think of the greatness of the Savior! ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Jesus Christ is the sternest and the gentlest of Saviors. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**

He that believes in Jesus is safe forever! ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Nobody can call himself a Christian who does not worship Jesus. ~ **John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

Jesus is not the child of eternity, but the Father of it. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Our Lord is risen from the dead!

Our Jesus is gone up on high!

The powers of hell are captive led,

Dragged to the portals of the sky. ~ **Charles Wesley**

There is more of power to sanctify, elevate, strengthen and cheer in the word Jesus (Jehovah—Saviour) than in all the utterances of man since the world began. ~ **Charles Hodge (American Presbyterian Theologian)**

Jesus Christ himself is to us precept, for he is the way: he is to us doctrine, for he is the truth: he is to us experience, for he is the life. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Oh, I never imagined how strong Christ was till I saw His love hold back His Deity! ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The characteristics of God Almighty are mirrored for us in Jesus Christ. Therefore if we want to know what God is like we must study Jesus Christ. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**

Without the miracles, you would have in Jesus a teacher and an example; but with the miracles you have a Saviour from your sins. ~ **John Gresham Machen (American Presbyterian Apologist)**

Depend upon it, my hearer, you never will go to heaven unless you are prepared to worship Jesus Christ as God. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Jesus Christ is not only the Son of God mighty to save, but the Son of man able to feel. ~ **J. C. Ryle**

The impression of Jesus which the Gospels give is not so much one of deity reduced as of divine capacities restrained. ~ **J. I. Packer**

If Jesus Christ is not true God, how could he *help* us? If he is not true man, how could he help *us*? ~ **Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Lutheran Pastor)**

It is an infallible proof of our Lord's divinity that he may be addressed in prayer. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The ultimate demonstration of Christ's power over death, and hence proof of His deity, was His resurrection. ~ **John F. MacArthur**