

Matthew 8:1-13

Proof of
Authority

Richard Sherman



I'm the best corner in the game! When you try me with a sorry receiver like Crabtree, that's the result you gon' get! Don't you ever talk about me! ... Crabtree! Don't you open your mouth about the best! Or I'm a shut it for you real quick! L-O-B!

Context

- The Sermon on the Mount
 - You have heard that it was said... but I say to you.
 - 5:21- Murder
 - 5:27- Adultery
 - 5:31- Divorce
 - 5:33- Taking Oaths
 - 5:38- Retaliation
 - 5:43- Love for Enemies
 - Building on solid rock vs. sand.
 - “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Matthew 8:1



- When he came down the mountain, great crowds followed him.
- Before and after the Sermon on the Mount, large crowds followed Jesus.
- Matthew 4:25-- Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.
- Do not underestimate the significance of the Sermon on the Mount!
- “Followed him” does not equal faith.

Matthew 8:2

- And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”
- Being in the proximity of a leper would have put Jesus’ “cleanliness” in question.
- The question is not: “Lord, if you CAN,” but “if you WILL.”
- What is the attitude of Jesus to the unclean?



Matthew 8:3

- And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will, be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
- Jesus touches the man.
- In making the man clean, Jesus becomes unclean.
- The leaving of leprosy is linked to the man being touched by Jesus.
- Galatians 3:13--Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—
- Jesus wants the man to be cured.

Matthew 8:4

- And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”
 - The “Messianic Secret.”
 - The man is not asked to speak.
 - He is a testimony to the authority of Jesus.
 - And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. (7:28-29)

Matthew 8:5-7

- When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.”
 - A Gentile.
 - A Centurion Gentile.
 - The Servant of a Centurion Gentile.

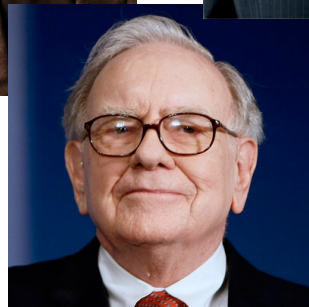
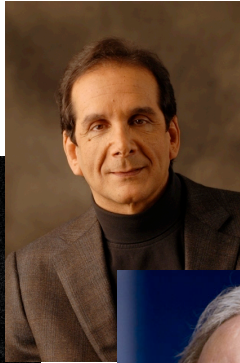
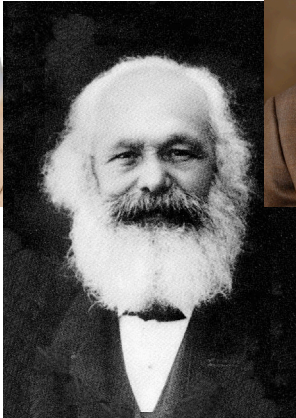


Matthew 8:8-9

- But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”
 - Authority.
 - “Honor your father and your mother.”

Authority

- ...real, or imagined?



Matthew 8:10

- When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.”
- Compare this to: And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.”
- The faith of the Centurion has to do with Jesus’ authority over all things everywhere.



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- Who we know is following Jesus by this time:
 - While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. (4:18-22)
- The Centurion has greater faith because he trusts in the **AUTHORITY** of Jesus.

Authority

- Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.
- Revelation 5:1-4

Authority

- And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”
- And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
- Revelation 5:5-6



Authority

- And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- Revelation 5:7-8



Authority

- And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”



- Revelation 5:9-10

Authority

- Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”
- And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.
 - Revelation 5:11-14
 - Which takes us back to Matthew 8...

Matthew 8:11-13

- “I tell you, many will come from the east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go, let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

Authority

- I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain.

