

Matthew 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

Analysis

The crowds' response—'they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men' (εθαυμασαν καὶ εδοξασαν τὸν θεόν τὸν δοντα εξουσιαν τοιαυτὴν τοῖς ανθρώποις)—reveals both insight and misunderstanding. They correctly recognize divine power (εξουσια/exousia, authority) and appropriately glorify God. However, their phrase 'such power unto men' (plural ανθρώποις) suggests they view Jesus as merely a specially empowered human rather than God incarnate. They see the miracle but miss the fuller revelation. 'Marvelled' (εθαυμασαν) indicates amazement, wonder, even fear. True miracles should provoke both worship and theological reflection. The crowd's partial understanding mirrors our own tendency to appreciate God's benefits while missing deeper revelations of His character.

Historical Context

First-century Jewish crowds witnessed itinerant teachers and occasional miracle workers, but Jesus' authority was unprecedented. Unlike rabbis who cited authorities or prophets who invoked God's name, Jesus spoke with inherent authority. The crowd's amazement was appropriate—this was unlike anything previously witnessed. Matthew, writing for Jewish Christians, emphasizes how Jesus' miracles fulfill messianic expectations while transcending mere prophetic wonder-working. The crowd's wonder without commitment foreshadows Israel's broader response: amazed but ultimately rejecting.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How can we move from amazement at God's works to genuine worship and obedience?
2. What is the difference between recognizing God's power and recognizing Jesus' deity?
3. Why do crowds often respond with wonder but fail to commit to following Jesus?

Interlinear Text

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saw But which when the multitudes it they marvelled and
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ἐδόξασαν τοῖς θεὸν τοῖς δόντα ἐξουσίαν τοιαύτην τοῖς
glorified which God which had given power such which
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ἀνθρώποις

unto men
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Additional Cross-References

Matthew 15:31 (Glory): Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

Luke 7:16 (Glory): And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

Acts 4:21 (Glory): So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

Luke 17:15 (Glory): And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

Luke 23:47 (Glory): Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

Mark 2:12 (Glory): And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

Galatians 1:24 (Glory): And they glorified God in me.

Acts 11:18 (Glory): When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

John 15:8 (Glory): Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Luke 13:13 (Glory): And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.