

THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING: PART 3

Matthew 9:18–34

Most are familiar with this cinematic scene: A bomb with a visible timer is counting down to detonation and, apparently, the only way to disarm it is to cut one of its two exposed wires. One, if snipped, will *shut* the bomb off while the other will *set* it off. It's a binary choice with life at stake and time running out. In many ways, that's the situation Israel was facing in Matthew 9. They had a decision to make about Jesus: Is he the Messiah or not? It was a binary choice with life at stake and the clock ticking. Now, *unlike* in the movies where the choice is often guesswork, Israel's is not. In addition to national expectation and scriptural prediction, since 8:1, Jesus has been providing evidence, authenticating his authority through healings, exorcisms, and fulfilled prophecies. Which wire will the nation cut? Which choice will you and I make?

The RESTORATIONS of Jesus

- Restoring *life* vv. 18–25; Lev 17:14
- Restoring *sight* vv. 27–30
- Restoring *speech* vv. 32–33a; Isa 35:3–6, 10

The RESPONSES of Israel

vv. 26, 31, 33b

- Response of *belief* vv. 18, 22, 27, 28–29, 32, 33b
- Response of *unbelief* vv. 24b, 34

Our REPLY to this question: “Do you believe he is able to do this?”

v. 28b