

Matthew 8

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: *“He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.”* **Matthew 8:17**

PRAYER: Father, as I study Matthew 8 and see Jesus doing miracles that authenticate Him as the Messiah, please help me see Him more clearly.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 8, we begin to see Jesus’ power as He performs miracles authenticating Him as the Messiah.

Matthew 8 Outline:

The Leper Is Cleansed - Read Matthew 8:1-4

The Centurion’s Servant Is Healed - Read Matthew 8:5-13

Peter’s Mother-in-Law Is Healed - Read Matthew 8:14-17

Demands of Discipleship - Read Matthew 8:18-22

The Sea Is Stilled - Read Matthew 8:23-27

Demons Are Cast into Swine - Read Matthew 8:28-34

One of Matthew’s goals in writing his gospel was to demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah. In chapters 1-4, we saw Jesus’ person: He is the Heir to the throne of Israel both racially (by being a son of Abraham) and royally (by being a son of King David). In chapters 5-7, we saw Jesus’ principles as He taught His disciples the principles of living the kingdom lifestyle. Now in chapters 8-9 Jesus comes down from the mountain and begins to demonstrate His power by doing miracles that authenticate that He is indeed the Messiah.

The Leper Is Cleansed - Read Matthew 8:1-4

Matthew 8:1-4

1 When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.

2 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

3 Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

4 And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

1. As Jesus came down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him (v. 1). He demonstrated His power by performing miracles that authenticate who He is. Review Isaiah 29:18 and 35:4-6 and list some of the miracles foretold of the coming Messiah.

Types or models are often used throughout Scripture to illustrate points. In the Bible, leprosy is a type of sin: loathsome, spreading, and incurable, gradually rotting away the flesh, slowly deadening the nerve endings, and eventually leading to death (See Isaiah 1:5-6).

2. What did the leper do as he approached Jesus (v. 2)? (See also Matthew 9:18; 15:25, and John 9:38 for similar responses.)

3. PRODUCE: What action did the leper take when asking to be made clean by Jesus? How do we need to do the same?

4. The rabbis strongly believed that leprosy was a direct judgment from God. In fact, the word *leprosy* means “smitten.” Lepers were excluded from the community and were required to cry, “Unclean! Unclean!” as others approached them (see Leviticus 13:45-46). What did Jesus do to the leper (v. 3)?

5. What did Jesus say *to* the leper (v. 3)?

6. What did Jesus do *for* the leper (v. 3)?

7. Jesus instructed the leper to go and show himself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded. What was that gift? (See Leviticus 14:3-20)

8. PROPOUND: It is likely that the priest the leper went to visit had never seen anyone cleansed of leprosy. What did Jesus say the gift Moses commanded was for (v. 4)?

Jesus pointed to authenticating miracles like the healing of lepers as evidence that would prove to John the Baptist that He is indeed the Messiah, the One that John was looking for (see Matthew 11:2-5).

For an additional example of Jesus healing lepers and their responses, see Christ Cleanses Ten Lepers - Luke 17:11-19.

The Centurion's Servant Is Healed - Read Matthew 8:5-13

Matthew 8:5-13 (NKJV)

5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,

6 saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

7 And Jesus said to him, **“I will come and heal him.”**

8 The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.

9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, **“Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!**

11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, **“Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.”** And his servant was healed that same hour.

For a more detailed account of the Centurion's faith, read Luke 7:1-10.

9. As Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion pled with Him. What did he plead for (v. 6)?

10. What was Jesus' response to the centurion's pleading (v. 7)?

11. PRACTICE: Why should we—like the centurion—plead with Jesus (Matthew 8:5)? (See Matthew 7:7-8.)

12. When the centurion became aware of Jesus' response, what was his attitude (v. 8-9)?

13. When Jesus heard the response of the centurion, He marveled (v. 10). Why did the centurion's response cause Jesus to marvel (vv. 10-12)?

14. The Bible records one other time that Jesus marveled. In Mark 6:6, what caused Him to marvel?

15. Jesus' answer to the centurion encourages us to believe in what we ask Him. What was Jesus response to the centurion's faith (v. 13)? (See also Matthew 9:29; 15:28 and Mark 9:23.)

Peter's Mother-in-Law Is Healed - Read Matthew 8:14-17

Matthew 8:14-17 (NKJV)

14 Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever.

15 So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,

17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

16. Peter was married, and his wife's mother was lying sick with a fever in Peter's house (see also 1 Corinthians 9:5). What did Jesus do to and for her (v. 15)?

17. What was Peter's mother-in-law's response to what Jesus did to and for her (v. 15)?

18. PROCEED: Share how Peter's mother-in-law's response is one we should also demonstrate.

19. Matthew tells of a late evening at Peter's home when many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. What did Jesus do for these people (vv. 16)?

20. Matthew referred to these demon-possessed being healed as a fulfillment of which Messianic prophecy? (See Isaiah 53:4 and 1 Peter 2:24.)

Demands of Discipleship - Read Matthew 8:18-22

Matthew 8:18-22 (NKJV)

18 And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side.

19 Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”

20 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

21 Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”

22 But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

21. A scribe approached Jesus and said, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go” (v. 19). By his response in verse 20, what do you think Jesus told this scribe? (See also Luke 14:25-33.)

22. PROPOUND: How should our response to what Jesus does be like that of the scribe in Matthew 8:19?

23. Another disciple responded to Jesus by saying, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” This saying was common in that culture, and referred to taking over the family business and receiving an inheritance when the father passed away. The disciple was essentially saying, “I’ll follow you later—after I receive my inheritance.” What was Jesus’ response to the request to delay his discipleship (v. 22)?

24. PROPOUND: How do the words “me first” spoken by the disciple in Matthew 8:21 describe his attitude about following Jesus?

25. PROCLAIM: In Matthew 8:21, the disciple wanted to delay following Jesus until he received his inheritance. What common excuses do people use to put off following Jesus?

The Sea Is Stilled - Read Matthew 8:23-27

Matthew 8:23-27 (NKJV)

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.

25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

26 But He said to them, “**Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?**” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

27 So the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

26. Jesus’ disciples followed Him into a boat, and then into the stormy sea. While the storm raged, where was Jesus and what was He doing (v. 24)? (See also Mark 8:23-27 and Luke 8:22-25.)

27. Jesus’ disciples marveled (v. 27) at His response to the great tempest. What was His response and why did they marvel at it (v. 26)?

28. PROPOUND: Jesus marveled (Matthew 8:10) and His disciples marveled (Matthew 8:27). What does it mean to marvel? Do you marvel at the things Jesus does in your life?

29. PROPOUND: Why did Jesus say to His disciples, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” (See Matthew 8:18.)

30. PROTECT: Meditate upon the knowledge that Jesus is with you during your great tempests in life. What should you do in the midst of your storm?

Demons Are Cast into Swine - Read Matthew 8:28-34

Matthew 8:28-34 (NKJV)

28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.

29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

30 Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding.

31 So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.”

32 And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

33 Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.

34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.

31. Jesus and His disciples survived the great tempest and arrived on the other side of the sea only to be greeted by whom (see Matthew 8:18)? Describe the welcoming party (v. 28).

32. PROPOUND: What name is one of the demon-possessed men referred to as? Why is he called that? (See Luke 8:30 and Matthew 12:43-45.)

33. The demons recognized who Jesus is. What name do they refer to Him by (v. 29)? (For additional insight about demons, see James 2:19.)

34. The demons were concerned that Jesus had come to torment them before their time. What time are they referring to? (See also Matthew 25:41, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6, and Revelation 20:10.)

35. The demons begged Jesus to send them into the feeding herd of swine (v. 31). Why would the demons beg Jesus instead of simply fleeing on their own?

36. Swine were forbidden for Jews to eat (see Deuteronomy 14:8). Yet about 2,000 of them were being kept (v. 33; Mark 5:13). What happened to those keeping the swine (v. 33)?

37. Upon hearing about the healing of the demon-possessed men, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. What did they beg of Jesus (v. 34)? What was Jesus' response (Matthew 9:1)? (See also John 3:20.)

38. **PROMOTE:** Read Matthew 8:18 and 8:28. What can you infer from the combination of these two passages? Share your answer.

39. PROPOUND: How is the response of the whole city ironically similar to the request of the demons (v. 34)?

PROCESS: Take some time to review what you've learned about the Jesus' power over sin, sickness, storms, and the supernatural from Matthew 8. Be sure to highlight the key insights you discovered so you can share them with the group.

PRAY: Father, please help me to remember to plead with You during my next storm, that I might marvel at Your wondrous works.

Journal your prayer here: