

Matthew 8 A Question of Faith Lordship

Review/Intro

- Rabbi and disciple review
- Review physical context
- Sermon on the mount. Relationship reflects reality

Matthew 8:1-4

- 8:1

- Not on the Mt like some kind of Eastern guru. This guru, this rabbi comes down. (Not the point or context, but still interesting. Jesus can down. God came down! Contrast to other gods.)
- **great crowds** - was this Jesus' goal? No. The power, the drug of the crowd. Me and 1K kids. Why then did He do all of this? Because He loved His people. Emanuel, God with us! Pretty cool.

- 8:2

- **leper**
 - Describe leprosy. Sight, smell, sound (voice).
 - Describe Jewish view of. Live outside the camp. Outcast. Unclean.
- **knelt before** - worshipped. Instant safety bubble around them. Shock at what Jesus is doing, mouths covered to protect, disgust.
- **Lord** - revisit lordship. Demonstrated in next three words.
- **if You will** - if You want to, if you desire to, if you purpose to.
 - **He is leaving it up to Jesus to do it or not. This is lordship.** Not commanding or claiming.
 - **Jesus does what others don't. He touches people that others wont.**
 - Difference between God's sovereign will/plan and things He may want or are in line with His desires.
- **you can** - to have the ability, the power, related to **Acts 1:8 power**. Again, lordship. His power, His ability, not our to make what we want happen.
- **make me clean** - ceremonially unclean b/c of leprosy, can't go to temple, make sacrifices. Much bigger picture than physical healing. This guy didn't make any deals with Jesus. **When you pray for healing, what is the scope of your vision?**

- 8:3

- By touching the man, Jesus would have become unclean. But He did, and He didn't.
 - Did Jesus have to touch the man to heal him? No. Could have just spoken.
 - Why did Jesus touch Him? Because He wanted to, and because the man needed it.
- What if Jesus didn't want to in this instance?
 - Would that change anything about Who He is? Would that change how you might relate to Him, if at all? If so, then that's your hang up not His.
 - **If you insist on getting your own way from the Lord and not His way, then you are fighting against Him. If He is not Lord of all, He isn't Lord at all.** Your whole life. Money, family, job, most importantly your heart. (**Psalm 51**)

- **8:4** Why do this? Jesus the Rabbi, all about living Torah and helping other do the same.

- The Law required it.
 - Interestingly, no one was ever healed from true leprosy.
 - Also, this man could finally go to the temple and worship!
- Healed because of the man's desire and Jesus' were in agreement.

Matthew 8:5-13

- Walk it through, work in **Luke 7** details.
- Details about servant, young man/son, doulos differences. Not love slave!
 - Possible this man recognized Jesus as Messiah?
 - **say the word** - asking the One who is the Word to say the word. Nice! **Again, lordship.**
 - Jesus is marveled at the abundance of faith and profound lack of it.
 - Not about where you are born, but being born again. Jesus is talking about Heaven and Hell!
 - **go** - that is the word. Imperative command, comes back later.
- Healed because of the some other person's proactive faith, not the sick person's.

Matthew 8:14-17 Walk through

- Jesus took the initiative.
- Did she serve because she was healed by Him? More likely that's what she would have been doing anyway.
- Who are the "they"? The crowds that followed. Little house!
- **Isaiah 53** connection.

Matthew 8:18-22 Walk through

- Why leave the crowds? Healing and teaching! He needed a break.
- I think the scribe sincerely wanted to follow Jesus. Dug His teaching and example. But needs to count the cost.
- **leave** - imperative command. Again, count the cost.
- Doesn't Jesus know that this isn't how you build a core group? Doesn't He know how to grow a church? Read John Maxwell? Been to the conferences? Leadership fail!
- When God moves some people will want to get in on it with good intentions, others with selfish intentions. May even happen here, keep an eye out.
 - Jesus isn't after numbers, after disciples.
- Healed Peter's MIL because Jesus wanted to.

Matthew 8:23-27 Walk through

- Describe geography and deadly storms. Cause for fear!
- Jesus, God is asleep? Yup. Even He needed rest, food, bathroom, human! And God.
- We all need rest. My brain, stimulation, justify with scripture, not cool. Need rest.
- They still weren't getting Who and What He is.

Matthew 8:28-34 Walk through

- They came out to meet Jesus (villagers will later). Everyone knew what was over here, maybe disciples were concerned on landing.
- Summarize demon possession, mental illness, behavioral issues, differences.
- **cried** - shouted, screamed. Who is speaking, the men or the demons? Demons. We know little about their nature. Arguments from silence mostly. Not going to speculate.
- The demons recognized who Jesus was and what He might do to them. They know their future.
- **begged** - urged, sincerely requested, similar to paraklete. Villagers will beg Jesus later.
- herd of pigs - not cool in a Jewish context, and these were Jews. Perhaps the people used these guys to keep poachers away. Taking advantage of them.
- Herdsmen nearby, close enough to see/hear what's going on.
- Deviled ham, when pigs fly.
- **Go** - same word, same form as with centurion.
- Herdsmen go tell village what happened, especially the bit about the men. Interesting parallel here.
 - The whole city came to meet Jesus.
 - They begged Him to leave town. Why? Ruined their livelihood. Money. Couldn't care less about the guys healed.
- Healed because Jesus wanted to.

Matthew 9:1-8 Walk through

- Jesus saw whose faith? The friends.
- The scribes are more concerned with the right-ness of the situation than with having compassion on this man. Does compassion trump right-ness? Only when you are wrong, like they were. Big problem today in the church.
- Healed as a demonstration of Jesus lordship, Godhood, authority.

Wrap up

- **There is no formula for faith and healing.**
- **When we initiate we need to have the right heart, a submitted heart. When the Lord initiates He will do what He wants to do, even if there is a cost to others.**
- **Healing is not about us, it's about Him. Jesus is Lord, right?**

If you want to, you have the power. That's what He's looking for. He can work with that.