

## Jesus: No Spin Matthew Chapter Eight: The Miracle-Worker

personal / group study for use with the message of November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008

What a wonderful time to be alive. To meet God in the flesh! To see His face and to hear His words! The miracles Jesus performs not only show His great compassion, but are proof that **He is who He says He is.**

### Introduction.

Matthew Chapter 7 closed with these words, "When Jesus had finished saying these things...." Chapter 8 is a chapter of action, an accounting of a number of miracles that showed the people that God's kingdom was truly at hand. A leper healed, the centurion's slave healed, Peter's mother in law healed, Jesus gives a lesson on true discipleship, followed by a demonstration of His power over all of creation, and then His power over the demonic.

As you read the accounts of the miracles that Jesus is doing, put yourself there. How would you be affected if you were the person healed? What would you think if you are one of the religious people? Do these accounts strengthen your faith or do they increase your doubts about who Jesus is?

### Read.

**Matthew 8:1-34:** "1When He came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed Him. 2A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

3Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy. 4Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

5When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, asking for help. 6"Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering."

7Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him."

8The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

10When Jesus heard this, He was astonished and said to those following Him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. 11I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

13Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

14When Jesus came into Peter's house, He saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. 15He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on Him.

16When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. 17This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"He took up our infirmities  
and carried our diseases."

18When Jesus saw the crowd around Him, He gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. 19Then a teacher of the law came to Him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

20 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

21 Another disciple said to Him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

22 But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

23 Then He got into the boat and His disciples followed him. 24 Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25 The disciples went and woke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

26 He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

27 The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

28 When He arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met Him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. 29 "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"

30 Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. 31 The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

32 He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. 33 Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they pleaded with Him to leave their region."

*\*All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.*

## Questions.

Last Sunday Bob taught us to live as people who know the Truth and live it out through grace. We were taught not be judgmental, but to have discernment about who to share the holy things of God with. Bob explained Jesus' teaching on prayer; that we are to ask and keep asking, knock and keep knocking, seek and keep seeking. Our Father in heaven knows how to give good gifts. He reminded us that Jesus wants us to love God and love people.

Most importantly, Jesus taught that all roads don't lead to heaven and we must be careful of who we listen to and who we build our faith on. As we continue in Matthew we see how Jesus lives out His teachings by caring for everyone who comes to Him.

### ThinkAboutIt...

1. Are you trying to "heal yourself" before you come to Jesus?
2. Why does Jesus perform miracles?

### ReflectOnIt...

3. Who is Matthew writing this Gospel for? Why would they think it was wrong for Jesus to touch a leper?
4. Explain why would Jesus want this man to go before a priest? See Leviticus 13:3, 8
5. Why is Jesus' offering to go to the centurion's house remarkable?

6. The gospels record that Jesus was astonished or amazed only a few times, in this passage, in Mark 6:6 and in Luke 7:9. What was astonishing or amazing in each of these stories? What was the background of the people that Jesus found such great faith in?

7. When Jesus touches Peter's mother in law what happens and what is her response?

8. Look at 8:18-22, why did Jesus respond to this teacher of the law in this way? What does Jesus say to him?

### **RespondToIt...**

9. When Jesus touched you and healed your sin problem, how did you react? What was your response? See Ephesians 2:8-10.

10. Do you learn anything about true discipleship from this chapter? Is salvation through grace alone? Why or why not? See Galatians 2:20 through 3:3, write out what it says in your own words.

**Jesus says that to follow Him takes a complete commitment to Him. The narrative continues with Jesus' power over His creation. His disciples are afraid of the storm, but they know Who to turn to. The final event in this chapter shows Jesus' power over Satan. Jesus frees the men who have been tormented by demons.**

### **Extra.**

What has following Jesus "cost" you?

Why do you think the conversation in 8:18-22 is recorded in the middle of all of these miracles.