

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 8/23-24/2021 *Matthew Chapter 8*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Objectives of Study – Jesus, Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: The Gospel According to Matthew! *Chapter 8:*

Jesus Cleanses a Leper – (vs. 1- 4)

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant – (vs. 5-13);

Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed – (vs. 14-15);

Many Healed After Sabbath Sunset – (vs. 16-17);

The Cost of Discipleship – (vs. 18-22);
Wind and Waves Obey Jesus – (vs. 23-27)
The Demon Possessed Man Healed – (vs. 28-34)

Jesus Cleanses a Leper

- **Jesus has come down from the mountain**, where He has given to His disciples the Sermon on the Mount. He has laid out for them the principles of the kingdom of God, describing those people who will be the citizens in that kingdom, the various characteristics of the kingdom and of their relationship to the Father,

Mat 8:1 *When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.*

- **Matthew places this as He is coming down from the mountain toward Capernaum.** The Sermon on the Mount was to His disciples, but now as He comes towards Capernaum, great multitudes again gather around Him. Is the King who is able to pronounce the ethic also able to move with power among humanity? That is an important question. We will see that answered in the twelve miracles that follow in chapters 8 & 9.

Mat 8:2 *And behold, a leper (the only defilement worse than leprosy was death) came and worshiped (fell on his knees) Him, saying, "Lord (first time used in the NT), if You are willing (not if You can!), You can make me clean." (Luk 5:12) And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."*

- **Leprosy was a horribly, loathsome disease.** It is a type of sin, because of the insidious nature of leprosy. It has a capacity of attacking the nerve trunk so that a person loses sensation and feeling. They are open running sores, ulcers that will not heal. They gradually rot away a person's body, beginning at the extremities. Usually one form of leprosy, that which is in the mouth, hits the lungs and so forth has about a nine-year termination period.
- **The outward type of leprosy** that begins in the extremities slowly begins to rot away the body. A person can be as much as thirty years living with that horrible malady. It is incurable, like sin, by human standards. Progressively, it keeps occupying a greater part of a person's life. It slowly rots away until it hits the vital organs. Then the person is destroyed.
- **This completely broken man came to Jesus and worshipped Him.** A leper could not live within a walled city. If a leper would look into a house, the house would be considered unclean to the rafters of the house. They would have to go through a purification kind of a ritual. If a person touched a leper, he would be considered unclean. He would have to go through a purification ritual. But here we see there was something in Jesus that he couldn't find anywhere else! He found it was something that brought life and hope back to his heart.
- **Even though leprosy was incurable**, in the law of God, there were provisions for the leper who was cleansed. God gave Himself the room to work, even in incurable cases. There is the law for the leper. Its description is in Leviticus Chapter 13. The day of his cleansing is in Leviticus Chapter 14. It tells how he is to bring two doves. The one is to be slain. The blood is to be put in this little bowl. Then the live dove was to be dipped into the bloody water solution. The priest would sprinkle the bloody mixture seven times on him who is to be cleansed. Then the bird which had been dipped would be release and allowed to fly away. He was washed in the blood of one of his likeness! It was a sign of the departing of the disease. Then he would go into a separate house and for seven days they would shave him, and they'd be examined. After seven more days, he would be examined again. Then he'd be declared clean by the priest.
- **The day of his cleansing, the day of the washing**, he worshipped Jesus. He said, "**Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.**" He puts it over on the Lord. Not if You can, but **if You are willing!** He knew that the Lord had the power. The only question in his mind was the willingness of the Lord!
- **That is so true of our own experiences!** It isn't a question of God's power. It's more a question of God's will. We know that God can do anything. Surely Jesus manifested and we will see progressively the manifestations of the power of Jesus over all kinds of issues and situations. Here in chapter eight, we will see His power over sicknesses. His power over demonic forces and His power

over the elements. So, it isn't a question of His ability. It is a question of His willingness. "**Lord, if You are willing, You could make me clean.**" , "I know You can, but will You?" That is, is it according to Your will?

Mat 8:3 Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed (katharized, catharized)." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. (1Jn 1:7) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son (continually) cleanses us from all sin.

- **Jesus...touched him!** No one would dare touch that man! He was a leper. When a person came within a hundred and fifty feet of him, if the leper was upwind from the person, he would begin to cry out, "Unclean, unclean," in order that the wind blowing past him wouldn't reach the person approaching him. The person would then divert and go around. He wouldn't come close. You were not to get within six feet of a leper. Keep your distance! But Jesus reached out and touched him! I believe it was a touch of compassion, a touch of love, a touch of caring, a touch of concern. Just think how long it had been since the isolated leper had been touched!
- **Many times, we think that we are untouchable.** The Lord surely wouldn't want to touch me. My life is so rotten. I have failed Him so often. Surely He's not interested in me. Jesus was always interested in the person who had the greatest need. Whenever He was in a crowd of people. His greatest interest was always in that person in the crowd who had the greatest need. There is no one, who wants to be touched by Jesus, that will ever be refused! Jesus never says, "I am not willing" to anyone who humbly comes with a genuine heart to do His will!
- **The enemies of Jesus recognized this.** When He came into the synagogue in Capernaum on the Sabbath Day, there was a man there with a withered hand. Immediately, they all watched to see what He would do. It's the Sabbath Day. Will He violate our traditions, and heal on the Sabbath? When Jesus walked in, they immediately associated Jesus with the man with the withered hand. They knew that He would be most interested in the person there with the greatest need. He's always interested in the person with the greatest need. Whoever you are here, right now, whoever has the greatest need in your life, you're the one who draws His attention. Jesus reached out and touched Him, not one of judgment, but healing with love, grace, and compassion! (Mar 1:41) Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."
- **Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.** Immediately that white putrefying flesh was pink like a baby. The ulcers were gone! He was cleansed!

Mat 8:4 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 (the priests)."

- **Jesus commanded him, "Just don't tell anybody.** Just go *show yourself to the priest*. Let it be a testimony to them." There have been periods of so-called power evangelism, using miracles and healings to attract attention. Jesus never used them to attract attention! When He performed this miracle He just said, "Don't tell anybody." Over and over again we find Jesus, when doing marvelous healings, would say, "Don't tell anybody."
- **It interesting to think, that Jesus told him to tell no one.** He basically told everyone. (*Mar 1:45) However, he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction. We are to tell everyone! All too often, we tell no one!*

The Faith of a Centurion

Mat 8:5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,

- **A centurion came!** A Roman legion had 6,000 soldiers. They were divided into sixty groups, called squadrons, of a hundred. A **centurion**, from the word "century", meaning the hundred, was the officer over each hundred men and was with them in their battles. He was of the elite of the Roman army. In the New Testament, we find the account of many **centurions**, and in every case, they were honorable men. There was Cornelius, associated with the gospel being opened to the Gentiles and the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and those of his household. It was the **centurion** at the cross that recognized that Jesus, and acknowledged, that Jesus was indeed the Son of God! It was a centurion that rescued Paul when the mob was trying to kill him in Jerusalem. Later that **centurion** was in charge of seeing Paul brought safely to Caesarea to escape from the plot of the Jews to kill him.

Mat 8:6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." (Luk 7:2) And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die.

Mat 8:7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

Mat 8:8 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.

- **Being paralyzed, sometimes referred to as palsy, attacked the joints of a body,** causing the joints to contract with excruciating pain. The freezing of the joints, pulling up, the drawing together of the joints, would make an invalid of a person. It was torturous. It was extremely painful. We read of another man in Luke, who was paralyzed and incapacitated. (Luk 5:18) *Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him.*

Mat 8:9 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."

- **The centurion was in a position in which he recognized authority.** He wore a Roman uniform and could say to a soldier under him, "Do this," and he did it. Why? Because of power, which is authority. He looked at Jesus and said, "You have that kind of power." He recognized that Jesus had that kind of authority over physical illness. I know that all You have to do, is just say the word and my servant will be healed.

Mat 8:10 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!"

- **Jesus marveled at the man's faith!** He had not found that kind of faith among the Jewish people. It is recorded that on two occasions the Lord Jesus Christ *marveled*. One was at the unbelief of Israel, (Mar 6:6) *And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.* The other was here at the faith of this gentile centurion.

Mat 8:11 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.

- **There is a kingdom of heaven, that glorious kingdom of God.** Death is not the end. (Heb 9:27) *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.* Death is not the end. There is that kingdom of God! *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob sitting down* together with them in *the kingdom of heaven*. What an experience that must be. They'll come from the *east and west*.
- **We know that each individual has to exercise personal faith in Christ.** No individual can claim church membership, or family tradition, or the fact that his parents or anyone else, are Christian, for his own salvation.

Mat 8:12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- **The sons of the kingdom,** referring to those Jews who expected the kingdom, or to whom, they thought, it properly belonged. They thought themselves to be the special favorites of heaven and that the Messiah would enlarge their nation and spread the triumphs of their kingdom. They called themselves the sons or the members of the kingdom of God, to the exclusion of the Gentiles. But Jesus is saying that many of the pagans would be saved, and many Jews lost, which have caused those hearing Him to have scratched their heads in utter disbelief.
- **There is the kingdom of God and there is the eternal kingdom of darkness!** Every man has his destiny in one of the two places. You will spend eternity in the kingdom of God or in the kingdom of darkness. That's a given.
- **This is most important! You are the one who determines** where you will spend eternity! It is determined solely and completely by your relationship to Jesus Christ!

Mat 8:13 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.

- **In the first case, the man came to Jesus.** In the second case, the centurion came for another, for his servant.
- **Although the afflicted servant was not in the presence of Jesus,** the centurion's faith in Jesus Christ caused him to be healed. Jesus touched a leper, and he was healed. Now He heals the centurion's servant from a distance.

Jesus Heals Many

Mat 8:14 Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever.

- **Jesus started at the mountain.** He came into Capernaum. Now He is going into the place of closest relationships within Peter's house.
- **There were several common types of fever.** There was the Malta fever, the Typhoid fever, and there was Malaria in those days. Malaria was the most common in the Upper Galilee region. There was where the Jordan river entered the sea of Galilee. It was a swampy area, filled with mosquitoes. Malaria was very a common thing there. It was probably Malaria fever that Peter's mother-in-law had.

Mat 8:15 So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

- **She got up and fixed Him some food.** Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a fever. He touched her and healed her. We notice these three types of diseases. One disease is leprosy, which is incurable. Another affliction is palsy, a paralysis. The other illness is a fever, possibly caused by a temporary illness.
- **Have you any sickness in the house right now?** You will find Jesus by far the best physician, go to Him at once and tell Him all about the matter. Immediately lay the case before Him. It concerns one of His people, and therefore will not be trivial to Him. Notice, that at once the Savior restored the sick woman; none can heal as He does. We may not make sure that the Lord will at once remove all disease from those we love, but we may know that believing prayer for the sick is far more likely to be followed by restoration than anything else in the world; and where this healing does not occur, we must meekly bow to His will by whom life and death are determined. The tender heart of Jesus waits to hear our griefs, let us pour them into His patient ear.

Mat 8:16 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, (Mat 4:23) And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. (Mat 8:16) 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.

- **What a busy day!** It began with the Sermon on the Mount, then coming on down into the city. The healing of the leper on the way, the healing of the centurion's slave, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law. Now, in the evening, multitudes were gathering, bringing sick, bringing those who were possessed with evil spirits.
- **They brought many to Him!** No isolated cases are given. If you watch this Gospel record carefully, you will see that Matthew makes it clear that there were literally thousands of people healed in that day. For instance there were thousands of blind men who could now see. There were thousands of crippled folk who were walking around normally. There were thousands of deaf folk who could now hear. This is the reason that the enemies of Jesus never questioned whether or not He had performed miracles. Instead, they asked how He had done them.

Mat 8:17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES (griefs - sicknesses) AND BORE (bear, lift, something for others) OUR SICKNESSES (sorrows, pains)." Matthew relates the healing of the sick by Jesus to the prophecies of Isaiah (Isa 53:4, 5) Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses) And carried our sorrows (griefs, pains); Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. [5] But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed (made whole).

- **Peter quotes this scripture also in his epistle, (1Pe 2:24) who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.** Matthew attributes the healing to the fulfillment of the prophecy that Jesus came to bear our infirmities and our sicknesses. Peter is making it very clear that the healing he is talking about is sin.

The Cost of Following Jesus

Mat 8:18 And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side.

Mat 8:19 *Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher (master, teacher), I will follow You wherever You go."*

- **Jesus got into this little boat.** He was ready to depart with His disciples to the other side.
- **Teacher, I will follow You!** I'll go with you wherever you go. He was probably moved with emotion, being inspired by what he saw Jesus doing. Lord, I'll go with You wherever You go. Jesus seems to cool him down a bit. He doesn't want emotion to be the thing that inspires you to service. If you can be inspired by emotion, you can also be discouraged by emotion.

Mat 8:20 *And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man (first of 32X in Matthew) **has nowhere to lay (kline) His head.**" (Dan 7:13) "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. (Joh 19:30) So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing (kline) His head, He gave up His spirit.*

- **Jesus responds saying,** Count the cost! You say you'll go with Me wherever I go! Do you know what that means?" I don't have a house. I don't have possessions. **Foxes have their holes. The birds have their nest, but I don't have any place to lay My head.** The poverty of the Lord Jesus! Poverty is part of the curse that He bore.

Mat 8:21 *Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first (doesn't work to say me first!) go and bury my father."*

Mat 8:22 *But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."*

- **On the surface, this seems rather callous and cold as far as Jesus is concerned.** We rightly think of Him as being very compassionate, very kind, very understanding, which He is! Here's a fellow, "I will follow, but I want to bury my father first." We have to understand the culture and all. What this man was saying was, "I'll follow You, but not now." Jesus says there is a cost. If you want to follow Me, follow Me now!
- **There was a common saying that I need to bury my father first, which was saying,** "As his son, I feel the responsibility to stay with my father until my he dies." His father could have been in top shape, good health; but he's saying, "Well, I'll follow You, but later. Allow me to bury my father first, allow me to stay at home until my dad dies, and then I'll come along, and I'll join the company. Jesus encourages him toward the immediacy. **"Let the dead bury the dead, follow Me (now)."**

Jesus Calms a Storm

Mat 8:23 *Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.*

- **One may wonder if those two were with Him.** It was a disciple that said, "Lord, I'll follow You but let me bury my dad first." I wonder if they went into the ship. I wonder if the one fellow counted the cost and said, "Yes, I'm in. It doesn't matter if I have any house or whatever I'm following. I'll follow You! Wherever You go, Lord, I'm in!"

Mat 8:24 *And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.*

- **We have now come to the fifth miracle.** It has nothing to do with healing a body but concerns a physical miracle over nature. Here the power of the Lord Jesus is demonstrated. It may have been that Adam had that same power before he lost his dominion. Now we see in the Lord Jesus, the last Adam, the manifestation of this dominion.
- **This was no ordinary storm.** We saw in the account of the temptation of Jesus that the Devil left Him for a little season—but not for long. This storm may actually be satanic in its origin. This was an attempt of Satan to destroy the Lord.
- **Notice that our Lord was asleep.** This is one of the most human scenes Matthew gives us. Jesus was so weary that even in a storm He could sleep! It reveals something else: He could sleep in a storm, whereas His disciples were nervous.

Mat 8:25 *Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"*

Mat 8:26 *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.*

Mat 8:27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

- **They came to Him and said, Lord, save us!** Too many times we have this, Lord, don't You care? Look what's happening to me, don't You care, Lord? We hear His kind response *O you of little faith!*
- **But it is a glorious thing! When Jesus is on board, there's no way you can sink.** That's a glorious thing. When Jesus is on board, you can't sink! That is why it's so important to have Jesus on board.
- **He arose, and he rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.** Imagine! Now they hadn't known Him very long. They're sort of newcomers to all of this, it's just starting out. They're not really sure of Him at this point. They know that He has miraculous power. They had seen the sick healed and all, but now this fellow stands up! He calls to the winds! He calls to the seas! He commands them, "Be still." Suddenly, the howling wind ceases and there's a flat sea, glassy sea! Unbelievable!
- **They marveled, saying, What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?** What kind of a man? It is the Son of God! The One who created the wind and the seas. The One who created the high pressures and the low pressures, moving the air, bringing the winds, bringing the storms, and bringing the calms. The disciples marveled, more of Jesus calming the sea, than of the storm! Like Psalm 107 says, Jesus was sleeping during the storm, but Jehovah arose!

Jesus Heals Two Men with Demons

Mat 8:28 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.

- **The tombs, likely caves,** that were next to this little village of Gadara.
- **They were exceedingly fierce so that no man might pass by that way.** They possessed supernatural strength and supernatural powers. Mark and Luke tell us that many times they tried to control them by chaining them, but they broke the chains. They terrified the people. No one dared to pass by that way. These men have controlled that particular area of the Galilee by their fierceness.

Mat 8:29 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?"

- **We see several things here. They recognized and acknowledged that Jesus was the Son of God.** James said, (*Jas 2:19*) *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! Just saying I believe in God doesn't save you. Even believing that Jesus is the Son of God doesn't save you. It is putting your trust in Him as your Savior that brings salvation! It is the submitting of yourself to His lordship in your life that brings salvation. Here the demons recognized who He was. (*Mar 1:24*) saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" Here they call Him "Jesus, *the Holy One of God.*" They recognize and they know that the day of their incarceration is coming.*
- **Torment us before the time?" In the book of Revelation, we are told that the antichrist, the beast, and the false prophet are cast into Gehenna.** We are told that Satan and his angels are bound in the *abusso* during that millennial reign of Christ upon the earth. In Luke's gospel, he has them saying, (*Luk 8:31*) *And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.* They know the time is coming when they are to be incarcerated. They know the prophecies of God's Word. Here they're asking Jesus, recognizing His authority over them, knowing that that time of punishment and torment is coming, they question, **Have You come here to torment us before the time?"** The appointed time that God has when He will judge the earth and the angels.

Mat 8:30 Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding.

Mat 8:31 So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine."

- **Now eating pork was against the law.** It was a part of the dietary code of law given by Moses, and it was for good reason. Unless pork is well cooked, it has the capacity, you get Trichinosis from pork that isn't cooked well. Rather than take the risk of getting this disease from the uncooked pork, it was just forbidden in the law. God had a reason for it. It was dietary. It was for their health. The fact that they were raising them meant that they were engaged in illicit business, raising pigs. They begged

Jesus to allow them to go away into the herd of swine. There's a lot of things about the spirit world that we don't understand. The Bible doesn't give us a complete explanation and details of the spirit realm.

- **In another place, Jesus indicated that when an evil spirit went out of a man**, he went around looking for another place to inhabit. It seems like the demonic spirits are not satisfied unless they are possessing a body. Having no bodies of their own, they seek a body to possess. When an evil spirit is driven out, he goes through the wilderness, dry areas, seeking a house to inhabit and finding none, he comes back to the house from where he was driven. If he finds it all empty, clean, that nothing replaced that evil spirit, he goes out and gets seven other evil spirits, saying, 'Hey, I found a place to live'. The last state of the man is worse than the first. Really just to cast demons out of people, isn't doing them much good unless it's being replaced by the Holy Spirit, filling up the void.

Mat 8:32 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.

- **There is only one steep place that leads into the sea of Galilee.** The shores around the sea of Galilee are all very gentle slopes coming into the sea except for one area near the place of Gadara. When in Israel, one can visit the ruins of Gadara. Nearby, a few miles away, is a steep cliff. That is the only steep place leading down into the sea of Galilee. When you get there, you know you're at the sight of 'deviled ham'. They perished in the waters.

Mat 8:33 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.

- **They ran into Gadara** and told the people what had happened to these two men.

Mat 8:34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.

- **Rather than being thrilled that God's power was brought to their area**, rather than being excited that the Son of God is here, they thought more of their commerce than they did the men whose lives were being destroyed by those evil spirits! They preferred their commerce to the healing powers of Christ being manifested. The commercial interest prevailed. They asked Christ *to depart*.
- **Today, there's nothing but ruins there at the site of Gadara.** You can walk through the ruins. They asked Jesus to leave, depart. They weren't interested in this kind of righteousness and purity being around them. What a sad, sad story. What makes it so tragic is that it is repeated over and over through history. People more interested in their commercial projects than they are in Jesus Christ. They are not really interested in the needs of a blighted soul or a blighted life. But business prevails!

SUMMARY POINTS:

Jesus Cleanses a Leper – (vs. 1- 4)

- This relates to the Lord's willingness and our asking. It is not of His ability, but of His willingness. "Lord, I know You can, but will You?"
- ***Mat 8:3 Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed (katharized, catharized)." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.***
- Jesus told him to tell no one. He basically told everyone. We are to tell everyone! All too often, we tell no one!
- Jesus will never say "No, I'm not willing" to anyone who asks with a genuine heart!
- **May we always stay in touch with Jesus, asking Him, when so led by the Holy Spirit, are You willing?**

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant – The Faith of a Centurion (vs. 5-13)

- The centurion asked Jesus to heal his servant who was paralyzed, dreadfully tormented. Jesus responded by offering to come to his house and heal his servant. The centurion said that he was not worthy for Jesus to come into his home, but just speak a word and his servant would be healed. demonstrated his great faith in Jesus!
- ***Mat 8:10 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!"*** We know that it was Jesus that healed, not the man's faith. (remember Lazarus' being raised from the dead!).

- Our faith is most important. Without faith, no one can please God. Without faith, no one can be saved. Without faith no one can know or fulfill God's calling on our lives!
- **Jesus spoke of this man's great faith. How much faith do I (we) have?**
- **This is most important! You are the one who determines where you will spend eternity! It is determined solely and completely by your relationship to Jesus Christ!**
- **How close is your relationship, right now, with Jesus Christ?**

Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed – (vs. 14-15);

- *Mat 8:14-15* Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.
- She got up and fixed Him some food. Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a fever. He touched her and healed her.
- How we all need His touch! Whatever our need is, Jesus will meet it!
- **Whenever you have an urgent need with no apparent solution, do you go first to prayer, humbly beseeching the Lord for His touch?**

Many Healed After Sabbath Sunset – (vs. 16-17);

- *Mat 8:16-17* 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! that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "**HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES** (griefs - sicknesses) **AND BORE** (bear, lift, something for others) **OUR SICKNESSES** (sorrows, pains)." Matthew relates the healing of the sick by Jesus to the prophecies of Isaiah (*Isa 53:4, 5*)
- Just think of the multitudes, who were sick, some possessed with evil spirits! Jesus healed them all!
- May we be a faithful witness as stewards of the gospel! Come to Jesus! Be healed eternally! He will by no means cast you out!
- **How truly thankful are with the factual truth? - "by whose stripes you were, and are, healed."**

The Cost of Discipleship – (vs. 18-22)

- *Mat 8:19-20* Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." 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."
- Jesus responds saying, "Count the cost, fellow. You say you'll go with Me wherever I go! Do you know what that means?"
- *Mat 8:21-22* Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead." I'll follow You, but not now." Jesus says there is a cost. If you want to follow Me, follow Me now!
- Jesus encourages him toward the immediacy. While we think many things are urgent and immediate. Jesus says, Follow Me Now!
- **How urgent and immediate, do you think your call is to discipleship is right now?**

Wind and Waves Obey Jesus – Jesus Calms a Storm (vs. 23-27)

- *Jesus was* so weary that even in a storm He could sleep!
- Too many times we have this, Lord, don't You care? We hear His kind response *O you of little faith! and there was a great calm.* That's a glorious thing. When Jesus is on board, you can't sink!
- What kind of a man? It is the Son of God! The One who created the wind and the seas, can instantly calm them?
- Call on Him. He can heal! He can save! He can calm any storm in your life!
- **Do you fully believe that, and are you living in accordance with that belief?**

The Demon Possessed Men Healed – (vs. 28-34)

- They recognized and acknowledged that Jesus was the Son of God. *Even the demons believe—and tremble!* Just saying I believe in God doesn't save you. Even believing that Jesus is the Son of God

doesn't save you. It is putting your trust in Him as your Savior that brings salvation! It is the submitting of yourself to His lordship in your life that brings salvation. Are you fully trusting Him with all your heart?

- They asked Jesus to leave, depart. They weren't interested in this kind of righteousness and purity being around them. The people were more interested in their business than they are in Jesus Christ.
- But we are to be the light of the world! We are to be the salt of the earth. We are to be a witness of His love and saving grace to a dark, dying and rejecting world!
- **How faithful am I as His witness?**
- **Jesus, Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life**

Closing Song:

I SPEAK JESUS Here be Lions, Dustin Smith (5:20)

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind

'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence I speak Jesus

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Till every dark addiction starts to break

Declaring there is hope and there is freedom I speak Jesus

'Cause Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life

Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over fear and all anxiety

To every soul held captive by depression I speak Jesus

Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life

Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like the fire

Shout Jesus from the mountains Jesus in the streets Jesus in the darkness over every enemy Jesus for my family I speak the holy name Jesus (3x)

Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire (2x)

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind 'Cause I know there is peace within His presence I speak Jesus

Closing Prayer:

Assignment for next week: Read Matthew Chapter 9