

## **Matthew 8<sup>th</sup> chapter**

1. Jesus heals a man with leprosy (1-4) (miracle no.01 )
2. Jesus heals a centurion's servant (5-13)( miracle no.2)
3. Jesus heals peter's mother- in-law and many people (14- 17) (miracle no.3,4)
4. The would be followers of Jesus (18-22)
5. Jesus calms a storm (23-27) (miracle no. 5)
6. Jesus heals two men with demons (28-34) (miracle no. 6)

### **1.Jesus heals a Man with Leprosy (1-4)**

1. The Sermon on the Mount shows Jesus as a teacher, with authority. This miracle shows Jesus is a healer with authority. Teaching and practice should go together.
2. Leprosy was a skin disease that could spread easily and was thought to be incurable.
3. Those days most skin diseases like Hansen's disease was called as leprosy.
4. The lepers are disfigured and the Law of Moses considered them as unclean (Leviticus 13-14).
5. The leper approached Jesus; knelt and called Him "Lord". This shows Kingship, Sonship and the Messianic status of Jesus.
6. The leper did not demand His healing but expresses deep faith in Jesus' healing power.
7. Jesus responds by touching him. According to Leviticus 5:3, touching a leper make a person who touched unclean. By his touch, the leper gets cleaned immediately. Jesus followed the Law of Moses in the correct way with human compassion and love.
8. Jesus' love reached even to the unlovable and did not fear in touching a leper.
9. Then Jesus asked the leper to fulfill what the Torah has commanded, because he loved the Torah. Further, Jesus did not want publicity through miracles.

### **2.Jesus heals a centurion's servant (5-13)**

1. This story has a connection to the miracle story before this (healing the leper).In the previous story, a Jew was healed according to the Law of Moses. However, in this story, a gentile is healed, which shows the gentile mission.
2. A centurion is a commander of 100 Roman Soldiers. He says "only say a word", shows his politeness, his humility and his sensitivity of the Jewish reluctance to enter the home of a Gentile.
3. The centurion speaks about authority which is very important in the Roman army. The centurion sees Jesus as a commander who has power and authority over sickness and evil as the centurion power over his soldiers.
4. Jesus was amazed at his faith. During Matthew's time there was a problem why the Jews did not have faith in Jesus as the messiah. The answer is their lack of faith, but the gentiles have amazing faith in Him.
5. Matthew warns against any religious complacency, specially the Jews who did not accept Jesus as the Messiah.

### **3. Jesus heals peter's mother- in-law and many people (14- 17)**

- This portion gives us an insight to a couple of important truths.
  - a. First we see that the Lord came to the Apostle Peter's mother-in-law's house.
    - i. The Lord touched her hand, she was healed immediately. After the Lord healed her, she ministered unto THEM.
    - ii. Her grateful service to the Lord caused her to minister to all the disciples, but her intent, we see, was on serving the Lord Himself.
    - iii. When the Lord heals us from our sin sickness, we are privileged to enter into a life of service to Him.
    - iv. The true concept of service is not that we serve the Lord at times, but we serve Him with our entire lives.
  - b. In the evening, many people were brought to the Lord to be healed of demon possession or sicknesses.
    - i. The Lord, in His infinite power and grace, cast out the demons by the sound of His voice, and He healed all those with their varying sicknesses.
    - ii. What power the Lord Jesus possessed! We see here that His actions were a fulfillment of a prophecy made by Isaiah the prophet.
    - iii. Isaiah 53:4 says, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted."
    - iv. Many of the so-called faith healers use this verse to teach that Christ, in His death, took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses in His body when He died on Calvary's tree, thus giving us the power to rebuke and heal all sicknesses by faith.
    - v. This shows us that the interpretation of Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled by Christ's healing ministry, in which He did take away disabilities and carry away diseases.

### **4. The would be followers of Jesus (18-22)**

1. Matthew wrote this account of Jesus' life to Jewish people in order to document Him as the Christ, the Messiah. (The Sermon on the Mount).
2. In Matthew 8 & 9 we find Matthew demonstrating Jesus' authority over disease, nature, the supernatural, sin, and even death itself. Each of these are things only God has authority over, and so each backs up Jesus' claim to be God in human flesh, and if Jesus is God, then He has authority.
3. When He says something, it should be obeyed.
4. Such is the case in Matthew 8:18. "When Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side." It was a command to be obeyed by His followers. In Matthew 8:23 we find that the disciples of Jesus did obey the order, for they followed Him into the boat and put out for the other side of the lake.
5. Matthew 8:19. "And a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."

- a. The scribes were generally antagonistic (opposed) to Jesus, especially after the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus has exposed their hypocritical self-righteousness.
  - b. This scribe calls Jesus, “teacher,” and he means it.
  - c. They took the title seriously and used it only of those that had earned the right to that title which was primarily themselves.
6. Jesus responds to the scribe in Matthew 8:20.
  - a. Jesus does not speak either positively or negatively to the scribe. He simply tells him what His own life is like with the inference that if the scribe will really follow Him, then Jesus can offer no more than what He Himself has.
  - b. Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” In short, “if you are going to follow me, I cannot promise you anything but an itinerant life. Foxes have holes in the ground they call home. Birds of the air build a nest that they call home. But I will be going from place to place and none of them will be home.”
  - c. Jesus addressing Himself here as “the Son of Man.” He is “the Son of Man,” not “a son of man.”
  - d. Jesus is fully human, but He stands apart from all other humans. The phrase, as used of Jesus, is a reference to His being the Messiah.
  - e. “The son of man” is next to God the Father in the clouds of heaven.
  - f. Jesus often used veiled references of Himself as the Messiah for two reasons.
    - i. To conceal His identity until the proper time.
    - ii. The term “Messiah” had developed many connotations that were not true of His role as the “savior of the world.” Many Jews were looking for the Nationalistic Messiah who would throw off the yoke of Rome, but in His first coming, Jesus came as the suffering servant that would take upon Himself the sins of the world. The Son of Man is the Messiah.
  - g. “No place to lay His head” does not mean that He will not have a place to sleep because Jesus is often in the homes of friends.
    - i. Peter in Capernaum
    - ii. Martha, Mary & Lazarus in Bethany, etc.).
  - h. The phrase was a reference to the fact that this world was not His home. Jesus did not come to gain worldly comfort.
  - i. Jesus did not go into detail of all the hardships that would come to those that would follow Him. He did not even remind the scribe that those that would follow Him would be persecuted on account of Him. The Scriptures are silent about the response of the scribe.
  - j. The silence here is strong evidence that this scribe was unwilling to follow Jesus if the cost would be that high. The man said, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go,” but his actions demonstrated that he would not even follow across the lake. The cost was too high.
7. In Matthew 8:21 another man comes to Jesus.
  - a. The inference from the context is that this man also wants to follow Jesus, but he does have one problem. If that problem can be resolved, then he knows he

would be free to do all that Jesus would want. “And another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”

- b. This man was another of Jesus’ disciples in the general sense of the word. This is not one of the twelve which Jesus chose as His disciples, but one of the many that were following Jesus around at the time.
- c. Jesus is about to go to the other side of Sea of Galilee. This man wants to go, but he does not feel he can follow Jesus to that extent until he is able to bury his father.

(There is some question as to the current actual condition of this man’s father. Jewish custom directed burial to take place soon after death. It was considered both a duty and a kindness that ranked higher than other services requiring attention. Sons were generally obliged to arrange burial as a final act of devotion (Genesis 25:9, etc.). It is, therefore, very possible that this man had heard about his father’s death only shortly before going to Jesus, and so he would be asking Jesus permission to return and bury his father before following Him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.)

8. In Matthew 8:22 Jesus said to him, “Follow Me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead.”

### **5. Jesus calms a storm (23-27)**

1. Jesus gave orders to sail in the Sea of Galilee to depart to Gadara. His disciples joined Him as it was told just before this incident that following Jesus is not easy as there will be storms.
2. Being a disciple of Jesus is very challenging. A person can be a real disciple of Jesus only if he or she is ready to go to the sea with Jesus and face dangerous and difficulties.
3. The storm tested the faith of the disciples and the church. Jesus was asleep as a normal person would do, even though some disciples were fishermen and knew the sea very well, they got scared. They woke Jesus with the prayer “Lord! Save us! We are perishing”.
4. Jesus became their last hope. Now Jesus rebukes them saying, not to get scared of any situation.
5. He says the root of fear is “lack of faith”. Their lack of faith makes Jesus unhappy.
6. Jesus then calms the storm by giving an order to the nature. Nature obeys Jesus as a slave obeys His master.
7. This incident shows the human and divine nature of Jesus. Further this is a proof that Jesus is the Messiah (anointed one of God). This is the opposite of what people thought that devil controlled nature.

### **6. Jesus heals two men with demons (28-34)**

1. As Jesus and His disciples arrived at the other side of the Sea of Galilee to the country of Gadara, he confronts two demoniacs living in the tomb and troubling those who pass by.

2. They identified Jesus but the Jews could not. Matthew attacks the Jews of this time saying devils are better than those who reject Jesus.
3. The kingdom of heaven destroys the domain of evil. The demons request Jesus to go into the pigs which shows Jesus' power and authority over devils, who controlled the world at that time.
4. Jesus only says one word "Go" and they leave and perish with the swine which shows how evil perishes in front of the Messiah.
5. Even though Jesus came for the lost sheep of Israel, according to Matthew, He goes to gentile areas also.
6. Normally devil is worshiped and used in the gentile world and to make him happy, the gentile exorcists have to make sacrifices and sometimes even human sacrifices, but Jesus only uses the word "Go".
7. Devils make the life conditions of the possessed and their families, miserable, unhealthy and dangerous. Where Satan is, there is sin, pride, jealousy, malice, revenge therefore these to demoniacs live in tombs for they are the Lord of death.
8. This story proves the identity of Jesus with the title, Son of God, which later Peter also proclaims. The devil is worried that Jesus will torment them. The day of torment for the devil is the Day of Judgment where Christ will come in this glory.
9. The demons questioned Jesus, 'what have we to do with you' because they believed Jesus must leave them alone and the devil should control the world until the last day.
10. But they asked Jesus' permission to go into the pigs because devil cannot go any further than God permits. The devil obeys Jesus like slaves and they are powerless
11. Those who looked after the swine were worried about the loss of swine more than the defeat of the devil of the salvation of the possessed men.
12. Jesus did not enter their city but the whole city came to see Jesus. Instead of inviting Jesus, and knowing him more, they begged Jesus to go away. The devil was cunning enough to make a big loss so that these money-minded people will reject Jesus.
13. Also we see in this story that the devil is unclean as the pigs.