### Introduction 9/1/2024

#### Context of **Matthew 8:1-13 Jesus Authority and Compassion**

### Introduction to Matthew Chapter 8

**In Chapters 8-10 we will see miracles and true discipleship**

Matthew Chapter 8 marks a significant transition in the Gospel of Matthew, moving from the teachings of Jesus, as seen in the Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 5-7), to a series of miraculous works that demonstrate His authority and compassion.

This chapter begins a new section that emphasizes Jesus' power over physical illness, nature, spiritual forces, and societal norms.

Each miracle serves not only to showcase His divine authority but also to provide deeper insights into His Nature as God, His mission and the nature of the Kingdom of God.

In Chapter 8, Matthew shifts from presenting Jesus as the great teacher to highlighting Him as the powerful healer and miracle worker.

This chapter is crucial because it illustrates the practical outworking of the Kingdom of God that Jesus had just taught about.

It’s not merely about words and doctrines; it’s about transformative power and the manifestation of God’s will on earth.

### Key Themes in Chapter 8

1. **Jesus' Authority and Power**: The miracles in this chapter reveal Jesus' absolute authority over sickness, nature, and the spiritual realm.   
   * This authority confirms His identity as the Messiah and the Son of God.
2. **Faith and Response**: Throughout the chapter, different responses to Jesus' miracles are highlighted, emphasizing the importance of faith.   
   * The people who approach Jesus in this chapter—whether they are lepers, Gentiles, or His own disciples—exhibit various levels of faith, each of which teaches a lesson about trusting in Jesus.
3. **Inclusion of the Outcasts**: Jesus’ miracles often involve those who were marginalized in society, such as a leper and a Roman centurion.   
   * His willingness to heal and interact with these individuals illustrates the inclusive nature of His ministry, breaking down societal and religious barriers.
4. **Fulfillment of Prophecy**: Matthew often connects Jesus' actions to Old Testament prophecies, showing that Jesus' miracles are not random acts but fulfillments of God's promises.   
   * This connection reinforces Jesus' messianic identity and mission.

### Structure of Chapter 8

* **Verses 1-4**: The Cleansing of a Leper – This miracle demonstrates Jesus’ willingness to cleanse and heal even those considered untouchable by society.
* **Verses 5-13**: The Faith of the Centurion – A Roman centurion's faith in Jesus' authority results in the healing of his servant, showcasing Jesus' power to heal from a distance and His openness to Gentile faith.
* **Verses 14-17**: Jesus Heals Many – A summary of multiple healings, including Peter’s mother-in-law, showing the breadth of Jesus' healing ministry and fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy about the Messiah bearing our infirmities.
* **Verses 18-22**: The Cost of Following Jesus – Jesus discusses the demands of discipleship with potential followers, emphasizing the need for total commitment.
* **Verses 23-27**: Jesus Calms the Storm – This miracle reveals Jesus' power over nature and the disciples' need for greater faith.
* **Verses 28-34**: Jesus Casts Out Demons in Gadara – Jesus demonstrates His authority over the spiritual realm by delivering two demon-possessed men, further showing His power and the varied responses to His miracles.

### Conclusion

Matthew Chapter 8 is a pivotal chapter that illustrates the power of Jesus through His miracles and teachings. It serves as a practical demonstration of the Kingdom of God and challenges us to consider the ***nature of faith and discipleship***.

As we study this chapter, consider how each miracle and teaching reveals more about who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him. T

his chapter sets the stage for understanding the scope of Jesus' ministry and the profound implications of His divine authority.

#### Overview of Matthew 8:1-10

In this passage, Jesus performs two significant miracles: healing a man with leprosy and healing the servant of a Roman centurion. *Both instances highlight Jesus' power and willingness to heal, as well as the faith of those who seek Him*.

### Verse-by-Verse Exposition

#### Matthew 8:1"When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him."

* **"When he came down from the mountain"**  
  + **A**fter delivering the Sermon on the Mount
  + This was a significant teaching time
* **"great crowds followed him"**
  + A growing popularity and the impact of His teachings.
  + People were drawn to Him not just for His words but for His actions and miracles.

#### Matthew 8:2 "And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.'"

* **"And behold"**
  + This phrase is used to grab our attention, emphasizing the significance of what is about to happen.
* **"a leper came to him"**
  + Leprosy was a severe and isolating disease, making this man's approach to Jesus bold and desperate.
* **"knelt before him"**
  + Demonstrates humility and recognition of Jesus' authority  
    - Humility connects to the Heart of God
    -  **Proverbs 22:4**
      * **JEN Translation:** "The result of humility and the fear of the LORD is wealth, honor, and life."
      * **Explanation:** This verse highlights the connection between humility and reverence for God, leading to blessings in various aspects of life.
    -  **Micah 6:8**
      * **JEN Translation:** "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"
      * **Explanation:** This verse emphasizes that God desires humility in our relationship with Him, alongside justice and mercy.
    -  **Philippians 2:3**
      * **JEN Translation:** "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others more significant than yourselves."
      * **Explanation:** Paul encourages believers to adopt an attitude of humility, prioritizing the needs and well-being of others over selfish desires.
    -  **James 4:10**
      * **JEN Translation:** "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you."
      * **Explanation:** This verse promises that humility before God leads to exaltation in His timing.
    -  **1 Peter 5:5-6**
      * **JEN Translation:** "Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that at the proper time He may exalt you."
      * **Explanation:** Peter instructs believers to adopt humility in their interactions with others and before God, with the assurance that humility will lead to God’s favor and exaltation.
  + Let’s learn from the nameless man that need a miracle from God
* **"Lord, if you will, you can make me clean"**
  + The leper's faith in Jesus' power to heal
  + He acknowledges Jesus as "Lord" and expresses belief in His ability to cleanse and heal him from his disease.

#### Matthew 8:3 **"And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, 'I will; be clean.' And immediately his leprosy was cleansed."**

* **"Jesus stretched out his han d and touched him"**
  + Jesus' willingness to touch the leper signifies His compassion and breaks societal norms, as touching a leper was considered taboo.
* **"I will; be clean"**
  + Jesus affirms His willingness to heal and commands the leper's cleansing.
* **"immediately his leprosy was cleansed"**
  + The power of Jesus' miracle and instant of the healing (no delays)

#### Matthew 8:4 **"And Jesus said to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.'"**

* **"See that you say nothing to anyone"**
  + Jesus often instructed people not to spread news of His miracles, possibly to manage the crowds and focus on His teaching mission.
* **"show yourself to the priest"**
  + According to Levitical law (Leviticus 14), a cleansed leper needed to be examined by a priest to be officially declared clean.
  + No one could then argue the fact of the healing
* **"offer the gift that Moses commanded"**
  + Refers to the sacrifices and offerings required by the law for cleansing.
    - The proof and the rules were followed
* **"for a proof to them"**
  + Demonstrates that Jesus respected and fulfilled the Law of Moses and provided evidence of the miracle.

#### Matthew 8:5 **"When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him,"**

* **"entered Capernaum"**
  + Capernaum served as a base for Jesus' ministry in Galilee
  + Most of the Lord’s ministry was around Capernaum
* **"a centurion came forward to him"**
  + A **centurion** was a professional officer in the Roman army who commanded a group of approximately 80 to 100 soldiers, known as a *century*. Centurions were crucial to the military structure and discipline of the Roman legions, acting as the backbone of the Roman army.
  + A man of authority and a Gentile, which is significant in the context of Jesus' ministry to Jews and Gentiles.
* **"appealing to him"**
  + The centurion approached Jesus with a request, showing respect and humility.

#### Matthew 8:6 **"‘Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.’"**

* **"Lord"**
  + The centurion addresses Jesus with a title of respect and recognition of His authority.
* **"my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly"**
  + The centurion shows compassion for his servant, describing his condition to evoke Jesus' empathy and aid.

#### Matthew 8:7 **"And he said to him, 'I will come and heal him.'"**

* **"I will come and heal him"**
  + Jesus' immediate response indicates His willingness and readiness to help, regardless of social or ethnic boundaries.

#### Matthew 8:8 **"But the centurion replied, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.'"**

* **"I am not worthy to have you come under my roof"**
  + Shows the centurion's humility and awareness of Jewish customs, which would make a Jew entering a Gentile's home ceremonially unclean.
* **"but only say the word, and my servant will be healed"**
  + Demonstrates extraordinary faith in Jesus' authority and power, believing that His word alone is sufficient for healing.

#### Matthew 8:**9 "For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.'"**

* **"For I too am a man under authority"**
  + The centurion draws a parallel between his own authority over soldiers and Jesus' authority over sickness and disease
* **"I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes"**
  + Emphasizes the power of command, highlighting the centurion's understanding of authority and his belief that Jesus' command would be equally effective.

#### **Matthew 8:10 "When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, 'Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.'"**

* **"Jesus heard this, he marveled"**
  + Jesus' amazement signifies the remarkable nature of the centurion's faith.
* **"said to those who followed him"**
  + Jesus addresses the crowd, using this moment as a teaching opportunity.
* **"with no one in Israel have I found such faith"**
  + A significant statement that a Gentile's faith surpassed that of anyone Jesus had encountered among His own people, highlighting the universal nature of faith and the kingdom of God

Matthew 8:11-13

#### Matthew 8:11 **"I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,"**

* **"I tell you"**
  + Jesus emphasizes the importance of what He is about to say.
* **"many will come from east and west"**
  + People from all over the world, indicating the inclusivity of God's kingdom.
* **"recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"**
  + The Messianic banquet, a symbol of the ultimate fellowship in the kingdom of heaven. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob represent the patriarchs of Israel.
* **"in the kingdom of heaven"**
  + The future realm where God reigns supreme and the faithful are gathered.

#### Matthew 8:12 **"while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**

* **"sons of the kingdom"**
  + Jewish people who were the original recipients of God's covenant promises but who reject Jesus as the Messiah.
* **"thrown into the outer darkness"**
  + Exclusion from the kingdom of heaven and being cast away from God's presence.
* **"weeping and gnashing of teeth"**
  + The anguish and regret of those who are excluded from the kingdom.

#### **Matthew 8:13 "And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.' And the servant was healed at that very moment."**

* **"Go; let it be done for you as you have believed"**
  + Jesus honors the centurion's faith, affirming that his belief has resulted in the healing.
* **"the servant was healed at that very moment"**
  + The power of Jesus' word in performing miracles.