

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 8:

vs. 1-4:

At the conclusion of the "Sermon on the Mount", in Galilee, Jesus descends from the mountain and crowds follow. A leper approached Him and asked to be healed. The man demonstrated that he had complete faith and confidence in Christ, by the way that he asked. Jesus healed the man and told him to go to the priest and offer a sacrifice, in accordance with the teaching of the law concerning one who was healed from the dreaded disease.

vs. 5-13:

Upon entering Capernaum, Jesus is approached by a Roman centurion. This Gentile was so persuaded concerning Jesus' power, that he told Jesus to just speak the word and he knew his servant would be healed.

Jesus was impressed by the centurion's faith and commended him for it. He further instructed the people saying that such Gentiles would become a rightful part of God's people and many Israelites would be rejected for lack of faith.

Jesus healed the man's servant then, just as He had been asked.

vs. 14-17:

Matthew continues to describe how Jesus went on to heal Peter's mother-in-law and many others. The reason that Matthew has included these miracles is found in verse 17, where he states that, "This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah". Matthew then quotes Isaiah 53:4; showing how Jesus continues to fulfill Messianic prophecies.

vs. 18-22:

Jesus taught the people to be willing to give up everything, if they want to truly follow Him. We have to be willing to put our own interests and families aside, if it interferes with following Him.

vs. 23-27:

Jesus and His disciples traveled on the Sea of Galilee and a storm came up and was threatening their life (this is a frequent occurrence and very little warning is given, prior to one of these storms). The disciples in fear, turned to Jesus, who rebuked them because they did not trust God to care for them. He then calmed the storm and the disciples were again dumbfounded at the power of this man!

vs. 28-34:

Upon reaching the other side, Jesus is confronted by 2 demon-possessed men. They were so violent and uncouth, that nobody had the courage to be around them.

The demons confronted Christ, and asked to be sent into the pigs nearby, if indeed He was going to cast them out of the men. Jesus complied with their wishes and the pigs ran into the sea and drowned. Even though the men were restored to normalcy, the people asked Jesus to leave, more concerned about the loss of the swine and fearful of His power.

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 8:

1. Who came and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean?"
2. What did Jesus tell this man?
3. What did the centurion say that he did not deserve?
4. What had Jesus not found in Israel?
5. How did Jesus heal Peter's mother-in-law?
6. What prophecy did all of Jesus' healings, fulfill?
7. Where did the teacher of the law say, he would follow Jesus?
8. What happened while Jesus was sleeping?
9. What did Jesus do, when told of the storm?
10. Who came to Jesus, when he arrived at the other side of the lake?
11. Where did the demons ask to be sent?
12. How did the townpeople react?

BONUS:

1. Does God heal miraculously today? Explain.
2. What do you think Jesus was trying to say, in verses 18-22?
3. How do people become upset over the cost of the Kingdom of God, and fail to be thankful for its accomplishments?