

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
January 8, 2023
Matthew chapter 8 “God’s Amazing Love”

I. Introduction:

READ: 1John 4:10-19

† **Matthew 5:1** And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

† **Matthew 8:1** When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

II. The Leper

Mat 8:1-4 When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. 2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 And Jesus saith unto him, see thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

A. Sin

† **Leprosy, in Israel, was considered due to sin – it was the judgment of God on your life. Leprosy, in the Bible, is a picture of sin and what it can do to our lives.**

† **A Leper had to stay 150 / 300 ft from people (depending upon wind direction)**

† **A Leper had NO hope, no future, no love or compassion and was destined to die Alone. And somehow...despite his affliction...this man made it to Jesus! ...and worshipped HIM!**

B. “If Thou Wilt”

† **Looking at the situation, this man knew that Jesus “COULD” cleanse him...he just didn’t know if He “WOULD...”**

† **But Jesus, in His love for this man, desired to heal him and even touched him - an unclean “Leper”. Oh, how long it might have been since this man felt the warm touch of compassion!**

† **Yet, we must remember that “Ministry is one life at a time” and Jesus meets each of us right where we are!**

† **Isaiah 40:11** He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

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† Jesus meets us and heals our infirmities, He cleanses our sin – and HE desires the best for us... but we must humble ourselves and come to Him with the same attitude of the Leper.

C. The Testimony

† And Jesus didn’t look for fanfare and glory, rather He told the leper to tell no man, rather go to the priest for a testimony to him...

† Jesus came first for the lost sheep of Israel and then to the gentiles...the healing of a leper had never happened in the Bible except to Miriam (Moses’ sister) whom God healed, and Naaman (a gentile healed by Elisha).

† In the Bible, Leviticus 13 tells, in great detail, how to identify Leprosy, and Leviticus 14 tells the sacrifices needed when it has been cleansed. But the Priests had never seen such a miracle...were those chapters written just for them with this man?

III. The Centurion

Mat 8:5-13 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, 6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. 7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. 8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. 9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 10 When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 11 And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

A. His Servant

† A Centurion was a Roman, a Gentile (and an officer over 100 men in the Roman Army).

† Most Jews hated the Romans because of their occupation of Israel. Yet he comes to a Jewish teacher on behalf of his servant and pleaded with Jesus to heal him.

† And Jesus responded, “I will come and heal him”. He didn’t hesitate to go...Jesus will minister to anyone regardless of who they are if they come humbly!

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B. His Faith

- † **But look at the Centurion's humility and faith:** "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.
- † **When Jesus heard it, He marveled:** The man's understanding of Jesus' spiritual authority made Jesus marvel.
- † **How did the Centurion have such great faith – he understood authority. The Centurion came in the Authority of Rome...Jesus came in the authority of the Father and all of Heaven! All things are possible with God!**
- † **Mat 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

IV. Grace, Truth, Faith & Unmerited Love

A. Grace: Peter's Mother in Law

Mat 8:14-17 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. 15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. 16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: 17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

- † **Here we find that Jesus fulfills v.4 of the Isaiah 53 prophecy...Isa 53:4** Surely, he hath borne our griefs {Heb: sicknesses}, and carried our sorrows {or infirmities}: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
- † **And Peter's mother-in-law's response was to serve them...when we are touched, forgiven and healed we respond to that love by serving as He served.**
- † **And after this...Jesus healed all who were sick and cast out evil spirits with a work. – Again, ALL AUTHORITY was His!**

B. Truth: Count the Cost

Mat 8:18-22 Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side. 19 And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. 20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. 21 And another of his disciples said

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unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

- † **“Let me bury my father first” was a common phrase at the time used for procrastination. What he was saying was, “I’ll follow you SOMEDAY”.**
- † **Jesus’ response: He cut through the procrastination and simply said, “Follow me”, and followed it with let the dead bury their own dead speaking of those who were spiritually dead.**
- † **The direct truth is sometimes the most loving thing you can say...**

C. Faith in the Storm

Mat 8:23-27 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. 24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. 25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. 26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. 27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

- † **The disciples have not yet fully embraced that deity of Jesus...and even though He is with them, they are irrationally fearful.**
- † **The rational thought would have been, “OK, Jesus is God and God can’t die, and we’re with Jesus so we probably won’t die either...”**
- † **They could have placed their faith in His position as Messiah, but what it appears they did not do is place their faith in His love for them.**
- † **The ultimate reason to put our faith and trust in Jesus is because He loves us and He is God.**

D. Grace: Unmerited Love

Mat 8:28-32 And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. 29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? 30 And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. 31 So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. 32 And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

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- † Jesus is in the Region of the Gadarenes (other gospels) – near Decapolis (region of 10 cities)
- † And they encounter demon possession – the demons know exactly who Jesus is...that’s important for us to remember when we think we are being attacked – they can only do what they are given permission to do!
- † James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.
- † The demons asked him to cast them into the swine – they needed a dwelling place.
- † Our application from this -- the god of “this world” desires to torment us, bind us up, drive us insane and ultimately “Kill” us!
- † But, Jesus is more than able to intervene in our lives – cast out our addictions, set us free from the bondage of our minds, shield us from the continual torment that the enemy brings to us...
- † John 8:30-36 As he spake these words, many believed on him. 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33 They answered him, we be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

V. Conclusion

Mat 8:33-34 And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told everything, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. 34 And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.

- † The people valued their “stuff” more highly than God – lovers of themselves, lovers of money, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. (2Tim 3:1-5)
- † What I want us to see, through the Leper, the Centurion, Peter’s Mother in Law, the guy who wanted to first bury his father before following Jesus, the Disciples in the storm and the demon possessed men is...
- † God’s love is amazing, unending, faithful, truthful, compassionate and kind!
- † And his love is here for each of us even now...if we will receive it...God loves you right where you are!