

Matthew 8

No copyright materials are used in this text

The summary and interpretation of the specific chapter and verses are from the Bible, they are religious text that is in the public domain.

Free to Copy and Distribute: Spread the Word!

(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺

lokpeter@outlook.com

Bibleao.com

Matthew 8

Jesus in our hearts

Leprosy and the Revelation of Faith

Biblical "leprosy" is a chronic infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae* that affects the skin, nerves, respiratory tract and eyes, causing skin ulcers, nerve damage and muscle weakness. Sin is like leprosy, which gradually erodes people's hearts and souls, and eventually leads to spiritual and moral corruption. In God's eyes, our natural nature is full of sin, like "leprosy." The leper was forbidden to enter the city by law, but the sick man, out of urgent need, risked breaking the law, came to Jesus, knelt down humbly, confessed the authority of the Lord, and said, "If the Lord will, he will make me clean." His faith was unquestionable, and he trusted the Lord from the bottom of his heart.

Healing & Mission

After Jesus healed the leper, he forbade him to go around preaching miracles because he was more concerned with preaching the message of the kingdom of heaven and making people come to God and recognize Him as Lord of life. Jesus' mission is to awaken the soul, not to satisfy the needs of the flesh alone.

The story of the centurion shows the power of intercession. He pleaded with Jesus for his servant and expressed absolute faith in the Lord's Word: "If only you speak a word, my servant will be well." This is an example of faith and a model of intercession. As children of God, we should be mindful of the needs of others and bring them to God always to ask for grace and salvation for them.

The price of following the Lord

Jesus reminded people that there is a price to pay for following Him. In order to do God's will, He gave up the warmth and rest of family life. Those who aspire to follow the Lord must be prepared to sacrifice worldly comforts and focus on the work of the kingdom of heaven, for the gospel is tied to eternal life.

Faith triumphs over storm and darkness

The disciples were terrified in the storm, but they were struck by Jesus' ability to calm the storm. In the midst of life's storms, we also need to remember that there is a God around us who controls everything. Faith keeps us steadfast in times of adversity because God is our safe haven. He also has the power to overcome darkness and evil, to set the bound free.

A bridge of faith

The miracle in Matthew 8 reveals that faith is a bridge to God that can change everything. Whether we are facing illness, trouble, or storm, we can find strength and hope by trusting God. Let us believe in the healing power of Jesus like lepers, trust in God's Word like centurions, stand firm in the storm like disciples, and trust Jesus for salvation like demon-possessed people.

There are many passages in the Bible that can help us understand and feel "Jesus in our hearts" more deeply.

Matthew 28:20 "And I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

John 14:27

"I leave peace unto you, and I give you my peace; What I have given is not as the world has given me. Let not your hearts be troubled, nor be afraid."

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this, when Christ died for us while we were still sinners."

Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Matthew 8:16-17

"And it came to pass in the evening that they came unto him with many demons; With a single word he cast out all the demons and healed all those who were sick."

Isaiah 53:5

"By his stripes we are healed." → Jesus' suffering brings us healing and salvation.

John 14:6

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; No one can come to the Father except through me.]

These chapters show all aspects of Jesus: His love, strength, comfort, healing, and calling to us. As we meditate on these verses, we can gain a deeper understanding of "the Jesus of our hearts."

We pray

Lord, we thank You for speaking to us through the Bible! Jesus, who walked in Galilee, is still with us today. You have humbled our lives so that we can experience Your grace and power more deeply. Lord, we give thanks for that! Pray that You will give us a living faith that will help us rely on You to overcome life's challenges, and that you will help us to be a blessing to others, to intercede for them, and to lead them in their difficulties. Bless our Bible study so that we love and trust You more, and are willing to follow and serve You. Pray in the name of Christ the Lord, amen.

Matthew 8

8 And when he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. ² And behold, there came to him a leper and ^[a]worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. ³ And he stretched forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou made clean. And straightway his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ And Jesus saith unto him, ^[b]See thou tell no man; but go, show thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

⁵ And when he was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, ⁶ and saying, Lord, my ^[c]servant lieth in the house sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. ⁷ And he saith unto him, I will come and heal him. ⁸ And the centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not ^[d]worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; but only say ^[e]the word, and my ^[f]servant shall be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man ^[g]under authority, having under myself soldiers: and I say to this one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my ^[h]servant, Do this, and he doeth it. ¹⁰ And when Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, ^[i]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 the west, and shall ^[j]sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven: ¹² but the sons of the kingdom shall be cast forth into the outer darkness: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. ¹³ And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; as thou hast believed, *so* be it done unto thee. And the ^[k]servant was healed in that hour.

¹⁴ And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother lying sick of a fever. ¹⁵ And he touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she arose, and ministered unto him. ¹⁶ And when even was come, they brought unto him many ^[l]possessed with demons: and he cast out the spirits with a word, and

healed all that were sick: ¹⁷ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, ^[m] Himself took our infirmities, and bare our diseases.

¹⁸ Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side. ¹⁹ And there came ^[a] a scribe, and said unto him, Teacher, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ²⁰ And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the heaven *have* ^[o] nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. ²¹ And another of the disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. ²² But Jesus saith unto him, Follow me; and leave the dead to bury their own dead.

²³ And when he was entered into a boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the boat was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. ²⁵ And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Save, Lord; 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 And the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?

²⁸ And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, there met him two ^[p] possessed with demons, coming forth out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man could pass by that way. ²⁹ And behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? ³⁰ Now there was afar off from them a herd of many swine feeding. ³¹ And the demons besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine. ³² And he said unto them, Go. And they came out, and went into the swine: and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep into the sea, and perished in the waters. ³³ And they that fed them fled, and went away into the city, and told everything, and what was befallen to them that were ^[q] possessed with demons. ³⁴ And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought *him* that he would depart from their borders.

Overview of Matthew 8

Matthew 8 records a series of miracles and teachings that reveal Jesus' authority over sickness, nature, and spiritual forces. It also highlights the importance of faith and the cost of discipleship. This chapter bridges the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) with the narrative of Jesus' powerful works, demonstrating that He is not only a teacher but also the Messiah with divine authority.

Key Events and Descriptions

Healing of the Leper (8:1-4)

Description: A leper approaches Jesus with faith and humility, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus touches him and says, "I am willing. Be clean!" The man is instantly healed. Jesus instructs him to follow the Mosaic law by showing himself to the priest.

Key Verse: "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." (Matthew 8:2)

Theological Thought: Jesus' willingness to touch the leper signifies His compassion and power to cleanse sin, which leprosy often symbolizes in Scripture.

Spiritual Influence: Faith involves both trust in God's power and submission to His will.

Healing of the Centurion's Servant (8:5-13)

Description: A Roman centurion asks Jesus to heal his paralyzed servant. He demonstrates extraordinary faith by saying, "Just say the word, and my servant will be healed." Jesus marvels at his faith and heals the servant from a distance.

Key Verse: "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith." (Matthew 8:10)

Theological Thought: This event highlights that salvation and blessings from God are available to all who have faith, regardless of their ethnicity or social status.

Spiritual Influence: Faith transcends cultural and racial boundaries, and we should trust in the authority of Jesus' word.

Healing Peter's Mother-in-Law and Others (8:14-17)

Description: Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law of a fever. Later, many people come to Him with illnesses and demonic oppression, and He heals them all.

Key Verse: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases." (Matthew 8:17, quoting Isaiah 53:4)

Theological Thought: Jesus fulfills the Messianic prophecy of being the suffering servant who takes on humanity's pain and sin.

Spiritual Influence: Jesus cares for both physical and spiritual needs, reminding us to bring all our burdens to Him.

The Cost of Following Jesus (8:18-22)

Description: Two men express their desire to follow Jesus. He warns them of the sacrifices involved, including a lack of earthly comforts and prioritizing His call over family obligations.

Key Verse: "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead." (Matthew 8:22)

Theological Thought: Discipleship requires complete commitment and the willingness to place Jesus above all else.

Spiritual Influence: True followers of Christ prioritize their relationship with Him over worldly concerns.

Calming the Storm (8:23-27)

Description: While crossing the Sea of Galilee, a fierce storm arises. The disciples, terrified, wake Jesus, who rebukes the wind and waves, bringing calm. He then rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith.

Key Verse: "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" (Matthew 8:26)

Theological Thought: Jesus' authority over nature demonstrates His divine power, affirming His identity as the Son of God.

Spiritual Influence: Faith in Jesus brings peace amid life's storms, reminding us to trust Him even in our most fearful moments.

Healing the Demon-Possessed Men (8:28-34)

Description: In the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men confront Jesus. He casts the demons into a herd of pigs, which rush into the sea and drown. The townspeople, frightened, ask Jesus to leave.

Key Verse: "What do you want with us, Son of God?" (Matthew 8:29)

Theological Thought: Jesus' authority over demons demonstrates His power to liberate people from spiritual bondage.

Spiritual Influence: Despite opposition or fear, Jesus' mission is to bring freedom and restoration to those oppressed by darkness.

Theological Thoughts

Jesus' Authority:

Matthew 8 emphasizes Jesus' authority over sickness, nature, and spiritual forces, revealing Him as the Messiah and Son of God.

His actions fulfill Old Testament prophecies, affirming His divine mission.

Faith as the Key to Divine Power:

The faith of the leper, centurion, and disciples illustrates that faith is essential for experiencing God's power.

Jesus commends faith that trusts in His word and authority.

The Universality of Salvation:

The healing of the centurion's servant and the casting out of demons in a Gentile region highlight that Jesus' mission is for all people, not just Israel.

The Cost of Discipleship:

Following Jesus requires sacrifice, commitment, and a willingness to prioritize Him above all else.

Spiritual Influence

Trust in Jesus' Power:

Believers are encouraged to bring their needs to Jesus, trusting in His ability to heal, deliver, and provide.

Faith Amid Fear:

The calming of the storm reminds us to rely on Jesus' presence and power during life's challenges.

Commitment to Christ:

The call to discipleship challenges us to evaluate our priorities and dedicate ourselves fully to Jesus.

Hope for All People:

Jesus' ministry to Gentiles and outcasts inspires us to share the gospel with everyone, regardless of background.

Conclusion

Matthew 8 showcases Jesus as the compassionate and powerful Messiah who responds to faith and calls for wholehearted discipleship. The chapter invites us to trust in His authority, follow Him with commitment, and find peace in His presence. It reminds us that Jesus is not only our healer and deliverer but also the Lord who deserves our complete devotion.