

Matthew: To Meet Jesus

Discussion Guide for Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1-8 on July 5 & 6, 2025

Summary

The sermon explores two healing miracles from Matthew's Gospel - Jesus healing two demon-possessed men and a paralyzed man. Through these accounts, we see different responses to Jesus's authority and power: the demons who recognized and feared Him, the townspeople who asked Him to leave, and those who glorified God. The sermon emphasizes that having a healthy fear of God is essential to faith, while also highlighting Jesus's authority to heal both physically and spiritually.

Intro Prayer

Lord God, as we gather to discuss Your Word, open our hearts to understand Your authority and power in our lives. Help us develop a healthy fear of You while embracing the healing and transformation You want to bring. Guide our discussion and reveal what You want each person to learn today. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What things are you afraid of (e.g. heights, the dark, flying, etc)? What are some things you do to cope with those fears?

Key Verses

Proverbs 1:7

2 Corinthians 3:18

Questions

1. What's the difference between unhealthy fear and healthy fear of God?
2. How does having a healthy fear of God impact our daily decisions and actions?
3. Why did the townspeople ask Jesus to leave after He healed the demon-possessed men?
4. How do you think the friends of the paralyzed man demonstrated their faith?
5. Why do you think Jesus addressed the paralyzed man's sins before his physical condition?
6. In what ways do you need Jesus's healing power in your life right now?

Life Application

This week, examine areas of your life where you might be resisting God's transformative work. Ask yourself if you're merely wanting to add some religion to your life or if you're truly willing to let God rebuild you completely. Take one specific step toward embracing His transformation in that area.

Key Takeaways

1. A healthy fear of God is essential to genuine faith
2. Jesus has authority over both physical and spiritual realms
3. True transformation requires complete surrender to God's work in our lives
4. Spiritual healing is more important than physical healing

Ending Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your power to heal us both physically and spiritually. Help us develop a proper fear of You that leads to wisdom and transformation. Give us the courage to fully surrender to Your work in our lives, even when it means radical change. May we, like those who witnessed Your power, respond with praise and glory to Your name. In Jesus's name, Amen.