
Matthew 8:1-17 Jesus: The Healing Hero

In this passage, we have four scenes, three perspectives, and one hero. In all four scenes, healing is taking place. We have the perspective of Jesus, those who were healed, and the crowd that watched. Jesus is the healing hero. He is willing, able, and ready to bring help and healing to those who believe in him.

When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ² And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." ³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 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."

⁵ When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶ "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." 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. 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." 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. 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, 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." 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.

¹⁴ And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵ He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. ¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

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Discussion Questions

- In the first perspective, we see Jesus healing. What do you notice from the passage about his willingness to heal? His ability to heal? His purpose to heal (see 8:17 & Isaiah 53:4)?
- In the second perspective, we see those who were healed.
 - Who were they? What did it take for them to come to Jesus?
 - What is God asking you to do that requires bold faith?
- The third perspective is that of the crowd. What have you seen God do that has powerfully impacted your life?
 - As you consider the power of Jesus, how does that change how you might talk about him to others?
 - With so much sickness in the world, how can we respond to people who wonder why they are not healed? James 5:14-16, Isaiah 53:5, 1 Peter 2:24, Rev 21:4

Prayer

Break up into smaller groups for prayer.

- Who are you praying for to know Jesus?
- What gospel conversations have you had this week with someone who doesn't follow Jesus?
- How is your time with God?
- What are you praying for?
- What are you struggling with?