

Matthew 8

Jesus

I. I Am Willing

1 When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.

- **Sermon on Mount**

1. Called out Self Righteous Ch. 5
2. Called out the Religious Ch. 6
3. Called out the Rest Ch. 7 No salvation apart from Jesus alone

Yet great multitudes still continued to follow Him down the mountain...

2 And **behold, a leper came** and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, **You can make me clean.**"

Behold a Leper came! Behold; i.e. Check this out. Look who's coming to Jesus

- **Unnamed Leper:** Luke Filled w/Leprosy; i.e. Latter stages/Covered all over

Leprosy: Starts in the skin and peripheral nervous system (outside the brain/spinal cord), then spreads to other parts, such as the hands, feet, face, and earlobes. Patients with leprosy experience disfigurement of the skin/bones, twisting of the limbs, and curling of the fingers to form the characteristic claw hand. Facial changes include thickening of the outer ear and collapsing of the nose. Tumor-like growths may form on the skin and in the respiratory tract, and the optic nerve may deteriorate. The largest number of deformities develop from **loss of pain sensation due to extensive nerve damage**. Patients can pick up a cup of boiling water without flinching... When these people cannot sense touch or pain, they tend to injure themselves or be unaware of injury caused by an outside agent. In fact, some leprosy patients have had their fingers eaten by rats in their sleep because they were totally unaware of it happening; the lack of pain receptors could not warn them of the danger. [Answers in Genesis]

- **Life w/Leprosy in 1st Century...**

1. **Quarantined:** Not to be touched as per OT Law
2. **Clothing:** Mourning attire/sackcloth

He would be forced to cry "Unclean, Unclean!" warn people he was coming
Unapproachable/No human contact/No human touch...at all

The skin, especially around the eyes and ears, begins to bunch, with deep furrows between the swellings, so that the face of the afflicted individual begins to resemble that of a lion. Fingers drop off or are absorbed; toes are affected the same. His throat becomes hoarse, and you can now not only see, feel, and smell the leper, but you can hear his **rasping voice**.

Behold the Rasping Voice: "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

Leprosy is not pretty Bible uses Leprosy as a picture of our sin

- **Picture of sin:** Begins with an itch [temptation] ends in death

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

James 1:14 ...each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

1. **Loss of pain sensation:** Hard callous heart
2. Incurable by human means
3. Contaminates those it touches
4. Separates us from a Holy God

**Leprosy a picture of the ugliness of our sin in the eyes of a Holy God
Unregenerate man is filled with leprosy from head to toe...**

Isaiah 1:5b... The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints. 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment.

- That is why Jesus came to heal...

Malachi 4:2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...

"Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

3 Then Jesus **put out His hand** and touched him, saying, **"I am willing;** be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Mark 1:41 Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him...

- **I am willing**

1. Jesus touches the untouchable
2. Metamorphoses at very moment of touch [Jesus kept the law]
3. Creator re-creates w/ a Word and a Touch...**picture of Salvation**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- **Cleansed and forgiven...**Lamb of God who takes away sin

4 And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a

testimony to them."

- **Is this you today?** Un-named leper hiding in shadows of sin
 1. Apprehensive?
 2. Last hope?
 3. Not worthy?

Good News...He knows your name...

As you come to Jesus in humility this morning...He is willing!

John 6:37 ... the one who comes to Me **I will by no means cast out.**

Matthew 12:20 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking [wick] He will not quench

- Heal what your broken life
- Blow into flame the yeas quenched by sin...

Joel 2:25 So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten

- **Metamorphosis:** You won't be able to contain yourself

Mark 1:44 [Jesus said the man...] "See that you say nothing to anyone... **45** However, he went out and began to **proclaim it freely**, and to **spread the matter**, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and **they came to Him from every direction.**

SUMMARY I am Willing

II. Soldiers Believes Jesus Marvels

5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

- **Pleading:** Bad translation. Lit. spoke to Jesus

Roman Soldier simply tells Jesus about servant/friend...

- **Paralyzed:** Relaxing of nerves on one side
- **Dreadfully Tormented:** Tortured by/Fighting with **unbearable pain**

Lord, my friend is in pain...I will come and heal him. Let's go!

8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

- **Not worthy:** As leper...the Centurion also **comes in humility**

- **Jesus us willing but we must come on His terms...Humility**

**Leper or Lieutenant... The ground is Level at the Foot of the Cross
We come to Jesus in humility...or we don't come to Jesus at all**

- **We are both men of authority**

1. My power is natural and given by men
2. Your power is supernatural and of God...in other words...

...We don't have to go through the motions and go to my house
Only speak a word, and my servant will be healed

10 When Jesus heard it, **He marveled...**

- **Jesus Marveled:** Stared at the soldier. Wondered and by implication admired

10b... and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not **even in Israel!** 11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- **Roman soldier:** God-fearer

Acts 10:1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called **Cornelius, a centurion** of what was called the Italian Regiment, 2 a devout man and one who **feared God** with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

God-fearers would eventually become saved believers. Fear of God is Beginning of Wisdom
Callout to true God-fearers in religions/cults...Come out and come to Jesus!

- Roman soldier commended for his faith...
- **Jews Rejected for their unbelief...** feared man/not God and missed the Messiah

Matthew 21:43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it ... **45** Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that **He was speaking of them.**

- **Kingdom taken from Jews and given to gentiles:** Church/Bride of Christ

John 10:16 [I have...] other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

- **Other sheep:** Gentiles; i.e. non-Jews
- **He came to His own but they rejected Him**

Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

Luke 19:42 [Jesus to Jews] If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that **make for your peace!** But now they are hidden from your eyes. **44b...** [Destruction is coming] ...because you **did not know the time of your visitation.**

- Began 2000 yrs. darkness for Jews...

Romans 11:25 [Today]...blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

- **Fullness of the Gentiles:** Now in progress until Rapture
- **Last Gentile saved:** We are out of here
- Rapture/Tribulation

Return of Jews to their Savior Jesus Christ

Revelation 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "**Go your way;** and as you have believed, so let it be done for you."

Get on with your soldiering...As you believed I would do I did do

...And his servant was healed that same hour.

Hebrews 11:6 ...without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Luke 18:8 when the Son of Man comes, will He **really find faith on the earth?"**

- Did the Centurion God-fearer become **a child of God?**

Matthew 27:54 [Crucifixion] ...when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "**Truly this was the Son of God!**"

SUMMARY Soldier Believes and Jesus Marvels

- Want to make Jesus Marvel/Admire? Believe Him
- **Start with this...**Here's a biggie...healing of the Mother-in-Law

14 Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever.

- **New things learned?**

1. Peter had a house
2. Peter had a wife
3. Peter had a mother in law who was sick

- **If Peter was the first Catholic Pope...**

1. Where did the no marriage thing come from?

2. Where did the no meat on Friday thing come from?

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 **forbidding to marry**, and commanding to **abstain from foods** which **God created to be received with thanksgiving** by those who believe and know the truth.

- **Commentary needed? We need Jesus not religion...**
- Jesus in Peter's house and sees Pete's mother-in law-is sick

15 So [Jesus] touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

Mark 1:29 [Jesus] came and **took her by the hand** and **lifted her up**, and immediately the fever left her.

Luke 4:39 So He stood over her and **rebuked the fever**, and it left her.

- Jesus touched her/Rebuked sickness/Fever Left
- **Mother in Law's First act was to serve:** Serving others is a mark true Salvation
- **Note where Jesus had come from...**

Mark 1:29 ...as soon as they had **come out of the synagogue**, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. 31 So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them.

- Jesus left church and began to serve

1 Corinthians 8:1 Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. [knowledge for sake of knowledge...]

- We don't come to church to learn a lot of information and become blowfish/blowhards
- We come to church to learn God's Word for the purpose of serving others

16 When evening had come, they brought to [Jesus] many who were demon-possessed.

- **Twilight at Peter's house: What a beautiful scene!**

1. Mother in Law serving Hors D'oeuvres
2. Parents/Children/Friends bring possessed to Jesus on Peter's front lawn

16b... And [Jesus] cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

- Cast out demons with a Word
- Healed ALL who were sick: Fulfilling Messianic prophesy Isaiah 53

"He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."
God Himself became man and bore our sin/sickness that we might be saved

As you come in humility...He is willing

18 And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a **command** to depart to the other side.

- Great Multitudes close in... **About to crush Him** [Mark 3]
- **Important:** *Commands* disciples to go to other side of Sea of Galilee

As Jesus heads for the boat...

19 ...a **certain scribe** came and said to Him, "**Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.**"

- **Scribes:**
 1. Religious leaders
 2. Hung out with Pharisees. Some were Pharisees
 3. Knowledge of law/Copied documents. BGG's

Luke 20:46 "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, 47 who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers.

I will go wherever you go! Will we follow Jesus without knowing where we are going?

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, **not knowing where he was going**...10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

- **Pilgrims/Travelers** on earth...but not of earth

Genesis 47:9 [Jacob] "The days of the years of my **pilgrimage** are one hundred and thirty years... [less than the] years of ... my fathers in the days of their **pilgrimage.**"

1 Chronicles 29:15 [David] ...we are aliens and pilgrims before You, As were all our fathers; Our days on earth are as a shadow, And without hope.

- We are pilgrims/Travelers

Turn fear of unknown into exhilaration/anticipation for what God has Hearts set on what's next...

Psalms 84:5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, **Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.**

Hebrews 11:13 [Heroes of Faith] ... confessed they were **strangers/pilgrims** on the earth.

1 Peter 2:11 [Calls believers...] sojourners and pilgrims

Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go
Didn't know where Jesus was going...Dark/Dangerous/Exciting at same time

- **Jesus knows his heart:** Land lubber not a Sailor. Have you counted the cost?

20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the **Son of Man** has nowhere to lay His head."

- **Better think about it.** Never know what's next when following the Lord...

Pilgrims are on God's agenda
If you are not willing to break routine... You can't go with Jesus

21 Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 22 But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Jesus still on His way to boat...

- **Disciple:** I'll catch up. Excuses excuses.

I'll follow you after I take care of some stuff. In my time...My agenda.
Follow Me now or don't follow Me...Make the decision

Luke 9:62 [Parallel] "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

If you are not willing to break routine... You can't go with Jesus
If Jesus is not your first priority now... you'll turn back when things get tough

- **Peter/Andrew, James/John:** Dropped nets/left father/immediately followed

23 Now when [Jesus] got into a boat, **His disciples followed Him.**

V 18 **Command: Depart to the other side**

24 And **suddenly a great tempest** arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. **But He was asleep.**

- **Great Tempest**

1. Translated 13x as earthquake. 1x as Tempest
2. Boat Covered by wave after wave
3. Jesus was sleeping

25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "**Lord, save us! We are perishing!**" 26 But He said to them, "**Why are you fearful, O you**

of little faith?"

Q. Why did Jesus rebuke for Fear/Lack of Faith?

A. Because they were questioning the power of God

When we say we can't do what God told us to do we question His power

- **God knows tempests will come and rock our world...**

Psalms 42:7 Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

- **Jesus:**

1. Not underestimating/minimizing how great tempest/trial was them/is for us
2. **Rebuke:** Is the power of the tempest greater than the power of God?

- **Command:** Go to the other side
- **Response:** We can't

Q. What would the act of faith have been to **make Jesus marvel?**

A. Believe God: Jesus said go to the other side/We will get to the other side no matter what

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Hebrews 11:6 ...without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- **What has God commanded that we can't do...because the wind is contrary?**

1. Forgive/Let go of bitterness/past
2. Don't worry about anything
3. Continue fighting for that marriage till God intervenes
4. Be that solid parent through their hard times...even when your falling apart
5. Be pure sexually. Be an example of God's kid at school/college no matter what
6. Love until you can't...then love some more

- **I can't:** Winds of the world are against me.
- **I can't:** Bad advice/Tempting to jump ship/Give in
- **I can't:** Path of least resistance is screaming at me. Jesus is sleeping.

Jesus said He would get you to the other side. Don't wake Him up.

- He's sleeping because the work has already been done
 1. Not minimizing the difficulty in your life
 2. Wants us to maximize **His greatness above the difficulty**

Psalms 34:3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me...

- If Jesus told you to do it then you can do it! Period.

- **Make Jesus marvel:** Believe Him even when it's hard.

26b... Then [Jesus] arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

- **Rebuked the Wind and Sea**

1. **Rebuke:** To assess severity/call out/act accordingly. Lit to muzzle
2. **Rebuked spirit** behind the wind/sea acting up

Satan was given temporary power over wind/waves

Why was Satan in an uproar? Why was he threatened? Trying to stop Jesus?

27 So the men **marveled**, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Who can this be that has power of nature? **The One who made it!**

Colossians 1:16 ...by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

If you don't believe Jesus is God the Creator you have the wrong Jesus

28 When [Jesus] had **come to the other side...**

Look...they made it to the other side...We want the world to say the same

28b... to the country of the Gergesenes...

- **Gergesenes/Gadarenes/Gadara:** Tribe of Gad
- Reubenites/Gadites/Half tribe Manasseh east side of Jordan during Joshua
- **Compromisers/Settled for less than God's best...**
 1. Gentile country/Pagans
 2. Pig farmers contrary to Jewish Law
 3. Compromise/Disobedience/Rebellion: Gad cushy place for demons...**till now**

28c... there met [Jesus] **two demon-possessed men**, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.

Where would the Scribe/Disciple be now if they had come?

I just remembered something... [McGee believes scribe counted cost and went]

- **Two Demon-possessed men...**

1. **Coming out of tombs** to meet Jesus
2. **Exceedingly fierce** not allowing visit deceased relatives [Tomb keepers]

29 And suddenly they **cried out**, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

- **Three truths about Demons in their greeting...**
 1. They recognize the deity of Jesus: Son of God
 2. Limited in knowledge: Don't know when they will be judged
 3. They do know they will be judged/that it will be torment

James 2:19 ... Even the demons believe—and tremble!

- **Demons:** Angels that rebelled and were cast from Heaven to earth

Revelation 12:3 ... behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a **third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.**

- **Torment us:** Demons wreaking havoc until the time...

Revelation 12:12b ... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that **he has a short time.**"

Revelation 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be **tormented day and night forever and ever.**

Demon Job Description: Deceive/pollute/sicken the world with lies
If Satan is lord of the flies...demons are the flies

- **Demonic Oppression** Cause believers to stumble/fall as per Ephesians 6
- **Demonic Possession** Non-Believers be given/taken over by fallen angel
 1. **Open doors:** Drugs [meth], porn, occult, music, compromise
 2. **Transformation:** Change in personality, temperament even physical changes
 3. **Suicidal tendencies:** Man's son throwing self in water/fire [Mat. 17]

Demons attracted to Gad: Compromise/Disobedience/Rebellion

- Two Demon Possessed men approach Jesus
- Did Jesus get in the boat to leave the crowd meet these guys?

Demons within speaking...not the men...
Have You come here to torment us before the time?

30 Now **a good way off** from them there was a herd of many swine **feeding**. 31 So the **demons begged [Jesus]**, saying, "If You cast us out, **permit us** to go away into the herd of swine." 32 **And He said to them,**

"Go."

Jesus casts the demons into pigs with one Word: Go!

32... So when **they had come out, they went into** the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

- Pigs commit suicide but...where did the demons go?
- **Demons need a host...**

Matthew 12:44 [After a demon cast out of man, demon said...] 'I will return to my house from which I came.' [And when he did, found] it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he [took] seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and **they enter and dwell there**

Person delivered must confess Jesus as Lord or they will be worse than before

- **Can Demons possess animals?** Yes...note the deviled ham and some cats I know

33 Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.

- **Pig-keepers run to city...**
 1. A Man came in boat/said Go/demons gone. Right mind/dressed
 2. Pigs went crazy/ran into the water/drowned

Which part of the story mattered to them...

Man delivered or their precious pigs dead?

34 And behold, the **whole city came out to meet Jesus**. And when they saw Him, they **begged Him to depart from their region**.

- Begged Jesus to leave them alone...and He does. Gentleman not forcing His way.
- They chose pigs over peace. Hogs over healing. Swine over sins forgiven

I think I see the departing sail; **love, hope, and peace melting away** upon the distant horizon...and the people of Gad left to perish. [Spurgeon] **It was their choice.**

- **Matthew 8**
 1. Jesus power over **Sickness**
 2. Jesus power over **Nature**
 3. Jesus power over **Satan**