

## Matthew 8 – 29 Sept 2019

### “Do You Have A Lifestyle Of Trusting Christ?”

#### Introduction

1. Jesus began to teach of the kingdom coming in Matthew 5-7
  - a. Some will enter and some will not.
  - b. You must be born into the kingdom by trusting Christ to be your Savior.
2. Trusting Christ as your savior. What does it mean?
  - a. Read Chapter 8 verse 1
  - b. They were beginning to follow Him, but did they trust Him?
  - c. It's more than just a one-time event.
  - d. It's a lifestyle of learning to accept what Jesus says is true
3. Let's examine the extent of our faith today, ok?

**We'll see 5 aspects of a lifestyle of faith in Christ.**

## Read Vs 2-4

1. Leviticus is my favorite book of the Bible.
2. Such tucked away gems & nuggets about Jesus
  - a. The 5 main offerings speak of Jesus
  - b. The 7 Feasts all speak of Jesus
  - c. Leprosy is spoken of in Lev 14
3. Turn to Lev 14:1-7
  - a. Leprosy is a picture of sin.
  - b. Leprosy was incurable, why is this here?
  - c. This is picture of cross and the resurrection!
4. Notice vs 4 again
  - a. “For a testimony unto them” – Give the gift as a witness to the priests.
  - b. The priests will later be witnesses to veil in the temple being miraculously ripped apart.
  - c. Read Act 6:7
5. Verses 2-4 tells us that a lifestyle of faith (#1) **begins at the cross** w/ salvation and resurrection.
  - a. Jesus points Leper AND priests to cross!!!

Verses 5-13 tells us that a lifestyle of faith (#2) **can be embraced by anyone.**

1. Read Vs 5-7
  - a. Jesus was willing to help even this Roman oppressor.
    - i. Religious outcasts were accepted – Samaritan women at the well.
    - ii. Poor gentiles were accepted – Syrophoenician woman
    - iii. Traitors and tax collectors
    - iv. Blue collar, white collar
  - b. Are we willing to help everyone?
2. Read Vs 8-10
  - a. How was this an expression of great faith?
    - i. He knew Jesus had the power to do this.
    - ii. He knew Jesus wasn't just one of the "soldiers of heaven".
    - iii. He knew Jesus' true role; He was the master Himself.

- b. This faith is exactly what Jesus is wanting.
  - i. Salvation has nothing to do with who you are. It has everything to do with who He is.
  - ii. The people of Israel had even more reasons and opportunities to believe that Jesus was the Christ, but he trusted more than they.
- 3. Read Vs 11-12
  - a. This expression of who will enter the kingdom is given on the heels of an expression of great faith.
    - i. Faith is how you enter the kingdom.
  - b. As the natural branches of the vine of Christ, Israel is the natural “children of the kingdom” and we gentiles are grafted in.
    - i. Israel as natural children have a great opportunity to know Christ.
    - ii. But if they don’t accept Christ, the same fate awaits them as anyone else.
- 4. Read Vs 13
  - a. Jesus here honors his faith w/ the miracle.

Now we see further miracles that prove that Jesus is the Messiah in verses 14-17.

1. Read Vs 14-15
  - a. If you've had the tradition that Peter was the 1<sup>st</sup> Pope...know this.
    - i. James led the early church (Act 15)
    - ii. Peter was married
  - b. What a great response to the touch of Jesus in her life.
    - i. She gets up and serves Him.
    - ii. Christian service should be motivation from pure thankfulness for His great love.
2. Read Vs 16-17
  - a. Jesus fulfilled all to be the Messiah
  - b. He was a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Surely, He has borne of griefs.
  - c. Read John 5:36
    - i. The very miracles that Jesus did proves that He was the long-promised Messiah!

Verses 18-22 tells us that a lifestyle of faith (#3) **will cost you something.**

1. Read Vs 18-20
  - a. Christianity will provide no retirement plan.
  - b. It isn't designed to give you anything.
  - c. Do you come to body of Christ (the church) for what the church can give you or for what you have to offer to the Lord and His body?
2. Read Vs 21-22
  - a. Key phrase "me first"
    - i. He's means, "I have key life events that have to happen first, THEN I'll serve Jesus"
    - ii. We're not promised tomorrow
    - iii. We need to incorporate serving Christ into everything that we do.
    - iv. This is a stale tactic, b/c he doesn't believe.
  - b. Count the cost
    - i. Read Luke 14:27-29
    - ii. Read Luke 9:62 (Parallel Passage)

Verses 23-27 tells us a lifestyle of faith (#4) **trusts every word of Jesus b/c He doesn't exaggerate.**

1. Read Vs 23-27

a. Why was Jesus sleeping?

i. B/c he was VERY TIRED.

ii. We super-spiritualize things sometimes.

iii. He's had long days of healing & serving.

b. Amazing, this simple demonstration of power over nature.

c. Does it seem harsh that he rebukes them?

i. Notice again vs 18 – his plan was to go over to the other side.

ii. Parallel passage Luke 8:22 begins this way.

iii. He meant what He said.

d. The Word isn't exaggerated but specific.

i. Tense of a verb – “I am the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob”.

ii. Singular/Plural – To Abraham's seed was the promise. He sayeth not seeds.

Verses 28-34 tells us a lifestyle of faith (#5) **cares more for the eternal than for the physical.**

1. Read Vs 28-32
  - a. What Legion knows
    - i. The devils know who Jesus is.
      1. Interesting that the disciples didn't really know in vs 27.
    - ii. The devils know their ultimate destiny.
    - iii. The devils know they have limited time.
    - iv. Spiritual beings have accepted the spiritual realities. Doesn't mean they agree with it.
  - b. Interesting the devils needed permission to enter the pigs. Certainly, can't enter a person without permission.
2. Read Vs 33-34
  - a. Why did they want him to leave?
  - b. Were they glad the two men were better?
  - c. They were mad their livelihood was gone!
  - d. The eternal souls of men > the swine.

## Conclusion –

If you truly have a lifestyle of faith, you know that...

1. It begins at the cross, salvation & resurrection
  - a. Everything in Bible points to the cross!
2. It can be embraced by anyone
  - a. Do you offer it to anyone?
3. It counts the cost of serving Christ
  - a. There are things we'll be denied in this life.
4. It trusts every word of Jesus, He doesn't exaggerate.
  - a. Read His Word carefully
5. It cares more for the eternal than the physical
  - a. Prioritize people with our decisions