

Lord, would you reveal the gospel through this text and that I may be used as a vessel to preach it well. Amen.

“SLOW DOWN”

Text: Matthew 8:18-34

Title: Meet Jesus: Lord of All

Date: April 19th, 2026 | Christ Community B-L

Intro: Everyone loves the touchdowns, grand slams, & buzzer beaters. Most team sports work the same way. Whether it's football, basketball, or baseball, there's a plan. Every player has a *role*. Different assignments, but all working together toward one goal. If one person ignores their role, the play falls apart. At first glance, Matthew 8:18–34 can feel like three random stories placed beside each other:

- a conversation about following Jesus
- a storm at sea
- demon-filled men being set free

However, they fit together perfectly to show us who Jesus is and how people are saved.

There is a cost to following Jesus.

There must be trust in Jesus.

And there is salvation through Jesus.

When all the pieces come together, we can see the gospel clearly.

FCF: Because of our sin, we are prone to resist giving Jesus total trust and total surrender.

Thesis: Jesus deserves all of us because He is Lord over all things.

Trans: What have you witnessed to be the first step of believing the Gospel?

I. In Following Jesus, there's a Cost (v18-22)

Jesus responds to enthusiastic words with sobering truth. A scribe says he'll follow anywhere, but Jesus reminds him that the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head. Another wants to delay discipleship until after burying his father.

Jesus is exposing hearts:

- One is enthusiastic but hasn't counted the cost.
- One is willing, but only later.

Following Jesus means He comes first.

This call of Jesus in Matthew 8 is not unusual. Jesus says in Luke 9:23, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'

Romans 12:1: "present your bodies as a living sacrifice..."

Anything you put before Jesus becomes what you truly worship. Luke 14:33: Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

Illustration/Application:

- Many of us want Jesus as Savior, helper, or enhancer—but not as Lord. Jesus does not accept second place.

Trans: As we “pay” this cost, we must trust in the Gospel

II. Following Jesus Means Trusting Him in the Storm (v23-27)

The disciples obeyed Jesus and still entered a storm. Jesus is asleep—not absent, not unaware, but at peace. The disciples panic. If you’re panicking, you’re not fully trusting. R/P: Panic often reveals where trust is weak. Jesus rebukes their fear before He rebukes the wind.

Heart->Circumstance

- With a word, the sea obeys Him.
- This reveals Jesus is no mere teacher. In plenty of scripture and throughout the bible, God rules the sea. Jesus does what only God can do. He’s God in the flesh.
 - Psalm 107:29: He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Illustration/Application:

- Obedience does not exempt us from storms. But storms reveal whether we trust Christ or just admire Him.
- Let us not debate storms so much that we miss that our Savior is in the boat.

Isaiah 43:2: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you...”

Trans: The presence of storms does not mean the absence of Christ.

III. Following Jesus Means Submitting to His Authority (v28-34)

Two demon-oppressed men meet Jesus. The demons know exactly who He is even when most people do not.

“Son of God... have you come to torment us before the time?”

The demons confess Christ better than the townspeople. Hell recognizes what earth ignores.

They understand:

- Jesus is the Judge
- Jesus has authority

- Judgment is certain

Jesus casts them out with a word. But then the town asks Jesus to leave. Why? Because they valued pigs and comfort over the presence of Christ.

Application:

- People still reject Jesus when His authority threatens their idols, profits, routines, etc.
- Imagine begging Jesus to depart because He disrupted our economy.

“It is possible to be amazed by Jesus and still ask Him to leave. Many people welcome Jesus as helper until He arrives as Lord.”

Summary:

- Have we counted the cost of following Jesus?
- Are we trusting Him in our storms?
- Have we surrendered to His authority?

Some of us admire Jesus, but have not followed Him.

Some know about Jesus, but do not trust Him.

Some of us want blessings from Jesus, but resist His rule.

- True discipleship flows from grace
- Christ’s kingship demands allegiance

Today the Lord of All calls us to: repent, believe, and follow Him.

Jesus is not just a useful helper. He is Lord over hardship, nature, demons, and eternity.

The question is not whether Jesus has authority. The question is whether we will gladly submit to it.

The One who calmed the sea would later endure the storm of God’s wrath on the cross for sinners. The One whom demons feared is the One who saves all who repent and believe.