

Life Group Questions

The Healer and His Ways / Pastor Rob / Matthew 8:14-22 / September 26, 2021

Having taught his disciples with unique authority (7:28-29), Jesus comes down the mountain to carry on his kingdom mission with unique authority. Matthew 8-9 offer a 'slice of life' view of Jesus' ministry. These chapters chronicle nine stories (10 miracles) demonstrating Jesus authority and power over all things. They show that the kingdom of heaven has truly arrived. The 9 stories are structured as 3 triads with a discipleship teaching at the end of each triad.

Jesus is the Messiah (from the line of David), the new teacher (like Moses), and Emmanuel (God with us). He is the Shepherd who has compassion on the harassed and helpless (9:36) and sends his disciples to lost sheep (10:6). The overarching theme of this section is Jesus' authority.

Pray to begin

Share responses to the sermon

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message?
2. What was the most meaningful thing that you heard in the message? Why?
3. What questions are still lingering?

Discussion questions

Read Matthew 8:14-22. Reflect on the text and the sermon by discussing the questions.

1. God has given gifts of healing, whether supernatural or scientific, to individuals in various cultures. Share with one another positive or negative experiences with doctors or other healing practitioners.
2. It was culturally inappropriate for Jesus to touch a woman. Why do you think Matthew includes this detail?
3. Read back through the first three miracles of Matthew's Gospel (8:1-4; 5-13; 14-15), all for the benefit of marginalized people. As followers of Jesus, what are we to learn from this way that the Gospel story is shaped?
4. Peter's mother-in-law "rose and began to serve them." (8:15) What is the significance of this detail?
5. After healing Peter's mother-in-law, Matthew writes about all the afflicted who came to be healed and that Jesus healed them all with a word. Look at these Scriptures to see the power behind and the effect of Jesus' word: Matthew 8:8, 26, 32; 9:2-7, 22. How does this speak to you today?
6. In his sermon, Pastor Rob explained about those oppressed by demons in Matthew 8:16: "The literal word is 'demonized,' and refers to the fact that people are afflicted in some way by demonic powers. We could say that everyone to an extent is demonized, and that some are

afflicted more than others. We are demonized by addictions and areas where the enemy has gained access in our lives.” How does this help you better understand demonic oppression?

7. Jesus healed “all” (8:17). Why do you think our experience of healing today is so different from what we read in the Gospels?
8. God reveals himself as the Healer, and wants people to know and experience him as such. What are some of the idols we commonly replace this role with?
9. Consider the two would be disciples (8:18-22), the “zealous” and the “hesitant.” Which one do you most identify with?
10. Reflection questions: At the end of his message, Pastor Rob provided three questions for reflection. If you reflected on these after watching or listening to the sermon, share your thoughts with the group. If not, take a few moments now to reflect and then share together.
 - a. Are you or a loved one unwell in body or mind? Bring that weakness to Jesus the Healer.
 - b. What are your worries, fears and even anger around the global pandemic? Place these onto the shoulders of Jesus.
 - c. Are you an over-zealous or hesitant disciple? Ask Jesus for a new revelation of himself to enable you to follow him fully.

Ask a group member to close in prayer OR spend some time praying for one another.