

Episode #734 Matthew 8 Part 2-The Commitment of Discipleship

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. The Lord made a leper clean with a touch, and then sent him to testify to the priests. A centurion asked the Lord to healing his young attendant at a distance, and such faith caused our Lord to marvel. He did as the centurion asked. Today we continue to study some of these miracles, as well as the price of following the Lord, in Matthew 8

III. Healing Peter’s Mother-in-law.

A. Verse 14. How could Peter have a mother-in-law if he was unmarried and the “first pope”? Peter was clearly no such thing. Lying = cast down. Bullinger thinks it means she was laid out for her death! “Sick of a fever” comes from a word for being on fire!

B. Verse 15. All it took was His touch! “Arose” means she went into action. Once well, this woman could not be stopped from acting the good hostess. “Ministered” is *diakoneo*, the verb form of “deacon.” She served them.

C. Verse 16. “Evening” is either the fourth watch, 3:00-6:00, or the time between 6:00 and nightfall during the summer months. Bullinger thinks this was the Sabbath and they waited until it was over to do this.

1. Demon possession *daimonizo* was common at the time of the Lord’s ministry and apparently readily recognized. No hint of such a thing in the Old Testament; this appears to have been a special work of Satan for that particular time. We believe God crushed this outbreak for good prior to the entry of the dispensation of grace, since without God’s apostles we would have no defense against it today. Romans 16:20.

2. Notice that a demon is identified with an evil spirit, not an evil angel. The idea that demons are fallen angels appears to be a misidentification. We do not doubt that there are fallen angels, for a third fall with Satan in Revelation 12. But they are not demons; demons are fallen spirits.

3. He healed all. Can modern “healers” match this record?

D. Verse 17. Spoken “through” Isaiah. Isaiah was only the transmitter; the Lord spoke the word. In Isaiah 53:4. In the kingdom of God this will be to such an extent that the inhabitant will not say, “I am sick,” Isaiah 33:24.

IV. The Commitment of a Disciple. Matthew 8:18-22.

A. Verse 18. The Lord often moved on when the crowds got too large.

B. Verse 19. This is a profession of submission, but whether or not he truly had the aftermind is called into serious question by the Lord’s words in the next verse. His foremind was not the same as his aftermind.

C. Verse 20. This is the first occurrence of the important title, “Son of Man.” This is because He was a traveling teacher. He had no place that night. This is not to say that He did not have a home when He was back in Capernaum, because He did.

D. Verse 21. This time one of their own number! Not of the twelve, of course. Lord = *Kurie*, Master, but it is questionable if he truly meant this!

V. Conclusion: The Lord miraculously healed Peter’s mother-in-law and many sick and possessed. Some asked to be His disciples, but showed they were not actually ready to make a

real commitment to discipleship. Are we truly willing to pay the price to follow our Lord today? Will we follow Him even if it means hardship? This is the kind of commitment that God desires.