

A Different King

Jesus the Miracle Worker Matthew 8:1—9:13

*“The men were amazed and asked, ‘What kind of man is this?
Even the winds and the waves obey him!’” Matthew 8:27*

1. Read Matthew 8:1–34. We see Jesus healing many different people in this chapter. As you read, observe and describe the person in need, the circumstance of each situation, their approach toward Jesus and his response to them.
2. What amazing thing does Jesus do before he heals the leper? Why do you think he does that?
3. Jesus heals this man, but he still needs to go to the Temple and sacrifice so he can be made ritually clean. What do you need to remember when you feel unclean and unacceptable? (Hebrews 9:13-14; 10:19-22)
4. Why does Jesus commend the Centurion? (verses 8–10)
5. In verses 11 and 12, Jesus describes the banquet that will happen in the Kingdom of Heaven at the end of the age. What is surprising and shocking about Jesus’ guest list?
6. Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law, and then spends the entire evening healing many others. How do these scenes show us Jesus’ character and heart? How is Jesus fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy? (verse 17)
7. What are verses 18-22 saying to you about the cost of following Christ? Also read Luke 9:57-62. Are there areas in your life where Christ may be asking you to count the cost? What are they?

8. As you read verses 23-27 how are the responses of the disciples in the boat different than that of the Centurion? How does Christ respond to them? Which are you more like when you are amidst a storm?

9. Have there been times when you have felt as if God were asleep and unconcerned about you or your storms? What kind of person do the wind and waves listen to? How does that help you in the midst of your storms? (Psalm 121; Psalm 139:7-10; John 14:16-18; Romans 8:31-39)

10. Read Matthew 9:1-13. Who approaches Jesus as the chapter begins? Whose faith does Jesus look to when he heals the paralytic man? Why does Jesus tell the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven?" Why is this statement blasphemous to the law teachers?

11. Why did Jesus choose to call Matthew to be his disciple immediately following his healing the paralytic? What is the connection between these two actions?

12. Why did the Jewish people consider tax collectors to be "sinners," on a level with prostitutes? Why did the Pharisees object to Jesus and his disciples eating with the sinners?

13. How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees? What is the significance of the Old Testament scripture that Jesus quotes to the Pharisees in verse 13? (Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:6-8)

14. It has been said that it doesn't really matter how much faith you have; what really matters is the person in whom you are putting your faith. Look over today's lesson. Matthew gets up and follows Jesus; what have we seen in this passage that makes you get up and follow Jesus?