

Matthew 8.1-17

Amazing, Everyday, Emmanuel

Most Urgent, Eternal Question Who is Jesus Christ? 4 GOSPELS

Same Basic Plan – Beginning – 2: Birth / 2: Ministry – End – Cross/Resurrection

MIDDLE – Words and Works – Preaching and Power – What He Did and Why\

The Gospel is made up of two-parts – Christ's teaching and his actions. People who only know the historical events do not know the Gospel, for it is teaching that reveals what Christ achieved by his actions. These two form a holy knot that no one must undo.
John Calvin

Matthew slightly DIFFERENT Arrangement – THEMATIC Not Chronological

Chs 8 & 9: 9 Stories of HEALING – Lordship of Jesus over ALL of Creation

Commencement of Kingdom of God in Here & Now > Growing until He Comes

1. Attractiveness of Jesus

v. 1 When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him.

SERMON on Mt > POWERFUL Conclusion – Crowds were AMAZED at Him

Sermon OVER Matthew gives SUMMARY Statement >

When Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Matthew 7.28,29

People were GRIPPED by Jesus – Could NOT STOP Coming to Him for More

ATTRACTION is JESUS, Not Ch INSTITUTION, Leaders, Followers, Rules

What we NEED to Do – Get OUT of the Way – Connect People to Jesus

"One of the greatest tragedies in...church is that people do not, by and large, talk about Jesus. That is extremely foolish. Jesus is the supremely attractive One. If we exclude from our conversation the only real winner that we have, we are of all people the most to be pitied. "
Michael Green

What is ASTONISHING / AMAZING - WORDS AND WORKS of Jesus

When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.
Matthew 9.7,8

WHY was Jesus a MIRACLE Worker? NOT to Draw CROWD...or GET RICH!
 Concerned for BODY and SOUL / Our whole Life HEAVEN and EARTH

More than JUST Good Preacher > POWER of God upon Him

For Jews demand signs....

1 Corinthians 1.22

Miracles were SERMONS in ACTION

Nicodemus: “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” John 3.1,2

a. Rules over the Law vs. 2-4

v. 2 And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”

Hard to IMAGINE – LEPER walking UP to Jesus in any Situation

CERTAINLY Hard to Picture Leper coming thru CROWDS to Meet Jesus

3rd C Rabbi warned against being 100 Cubits DOWNWIND from a LEPER

“The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp” Leviticus 13.45,46

Picture of BOLD FAITH to defy CULTURE, CUSTOM, and perhaps CROWDS

DESPERATION drove him to BOLDLY Approach / Endanger JESUS

Jewish LAW FORBADE TOUCHING a Leper

...if he touches human uncleanness, of whatever sort the uncleanness may be with which one becomes unclean Leviticus 5.3

5 Words of Jesus ECHO thru Sermon on Mt. – “...but I say to you”

God the LAW GIVER from Sinai – Now makes a NEW COVENANT

LAW Keeping NOT Jesus ONLY Concern – He BROKE Law by Touching

v. 3 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him

“STRETCHED OUT his Hand” – No Accident, Not BUMPED in Busy Crowd
Probably HAD to Reach out because LEPPER would Not come TOO CLOSE

Law can Guide and Protect - People were More Important than Laws

b. Raises the Dead v. 3 “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”

21 Different SKIN Diseases named in OT Law, ALL Made Sufferer UNCLEAN
UNCLEAN People were ISOLATED – SHUNNED – FEARED / Very ALONE
Not Clear whether this MAN has Hansen’s Disease or LEPROSY of Today



Moved to UGANDA in 1983 – Nearest Neighbors LEPERS

Theological College we Lived / over hill from Kuluva Hospital

Villages of Lepers Hills & Valleys - Needed Weekly Treatment

Even Under Treatment: LONELY People / LIVED Isolated from Others

SOCIAL ISOLATION may be MOST Painful part of the Disease of LEPROSY

Other Skin Diseases, CURED, and PERSON could be RESTORED to Families

LEPPER could not REGROW Fingers, Toes, Noses – No Feeling, No Protection

Jews: CLEANSING a LEPPER = RAISING the DEAD

Leprosy was SOCIAL EQUIVALENT of DEATH, INVISIBLE Man or Woman

In Buddhist cultures and some African cultures, disability of any kind is seen as a punishment for evil deeds...in a previous life and as a reason for rejection.

Orphanages are full of disabled children who have been abandoned. The millions of people in Africa who suffer from HIV/AIDS are often treated as outcasts.

Joe Kapolyo, Zambia

“IF you WILL” – Leper KNOWS He CAN – Declares FAITH in Healing Power

In Sha Allah “if God wills” – Means GOD is DISTANT and UNKNOWABLE

Doing BUSINESS w/ Muslim SHAKE Hands on Deal they say “Insha Allah”

DON’T Expect them to KEEP their PROMISE!!

DEAD MAN, Social Outcast – Knew GOD Could Help – Doubted if God Cared

See COMPASSION of Jesus - HE DID Care – His WILL was to HELP

v. 3 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.”
And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
2 Peter 3.9

He went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people...they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them.
Matthew 4.23,24

One Brother read that and SAID “That is what WE NOW DO in Jesus Name!”
PITY that Brother, Such SMALL VIEW of Jesus - – Really R U Him Now?

This is NOT a MODEL for Christian MINISTRY > How to Perform Healings!!

1st C Jewish Healers & Exorcists – used things Chants, Bones, Wood Chips /
Smoke, Olive Branches, Incense, Thread, Bowls of Water, Hairs of a Dog

Jesus does NOT Even NEED to Pray to Cast out DEMONS > TOUCH of God

He does NOT Need to be TOLD what is DIAGNOSIS or Best REMEDY

He does NOT even NEED to be PHYSICALLY Present > Centurion’s Servant

c. Reconciles to the Community

v. 4 And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

Jesus has POWER to CURE the INCURABLE / INVITE the ISOLATED

LAW Keeping is NOT Jesus ONLY Concern – He BROKE Law by Touching

NOT Iconoclast – SYSTEM of Priestly Examination / WISE Plan of God

SOCIAL Restoration: ALL CLEAN / ALL CLEAR from Priest get his Life Back

Leviticus 14 – Shaves all His Body – Ritual Bath

2 Birds – 1 Killed – Blood Smearred – Right Ear, Thumb, Toe

Cleanse all you Hear, Touch, Been / Other Bird – Set Free // Scape Goat

Outside Camp – 7 Days – Same Shaving/Bathing – Blood of Lambs Slain

Wants LEPER to Know Gospel – See Gospel – Jesus HIS Lamb soon Die

SPIRIT poured on him PENTECOST, Man stood WHOLE in Finished Work X

When Jesus touched the leper, He contracted the leper's defilement; *but He also conveyed His health!* Is this not what He did for us on the cross when He was made sin for us?
Warren Wiersbe

MAN Jesus TOUCHED was NO LONGER a LEPER – Hand fell on Healed Man
Be AMAZED that Jesus is THE MINISTRY – He is God, Messiah, Healer, King

We have NO POWER in OURSELVES – This is KING We FOLLOW

2. Authority of Jesus

2nd HEALING – SERVANT of Roman Centurion

Centurion = SOLDIER / Jesus Christ = MAN of PEACE

Soldier = GENTILE / Our Savior = A JEW

a. Understood and Applied

vs. 5,6 When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.”

Centurion HIGH Rank SOCIETY / Acknowledges Jesus' Power in SPIRIT

FOOLISHNESS of Americans – Refuse to Acknowledge Authority of Leaders
 If PARTY you Oppose Elected – Resist, Drag Feet, Wait them Out
 Refuse to WORK TOGETHER with Person who HOLDS Power to Help
 POWER & Potential of Leader NOT whether you LIKE Them – Office Held
 Centurion NOT Come to Jesus because He liked Him – Not KNOW Him
 Centurions Authority was backed up by ROMAN EMPEROR

Understands AUTHORITY is always DERIVED: God Alone has Full Authority
 Came because Jesus Christ holds ALL Authority in Heaven and on Earth

Umulilo ucingili abakalamba ta oca (a fire protected by the elderly is not dangerous)
 Bemba Proverb

Leadership is SAFER when Protected by those with GREATER Authority

v. 9 For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

UNDERSTANDS / DESCRIBES Jesus Power in Military Culture and Words
 Challenge to us to TRANSLATE Gospel to Others out of our Christianeze!

v. 13 And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

b. A New Kingdom

v. 7 And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

Be GREAT to have VIDEO of this ENCOUNTER – Hear & See Jesus

LOOK on His FACE – TONE in His VOICE – can be TRANSLATED:

“Am I to come and heal him?”

“ME!! Enter into YOUR Home!!” – HE is an UNCLEAN DOG!

Going into HIS HOME is like TOUCHING a LEPER

v. 8 But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.

Wants to PROTECT Jesus from DEFILEMENT of Entering his HOUSE
 No Biblical Record of Jesus WILLINGLY Entering GENTILE Home
 Until End of Life – TAKEN by Force into Pontius Pilate’s QUARTERS

Only OTHER Distant HEALING in Matthew involves a GENTILE too

Jesus cannot be EXPECT to Enter their Homes – at that Point

But SOCIAL Barrier does NOT Stop Jesus from Extending His Healing Power

Jesus will be at TABLE – INTIMATE, ETERNAL Fellowship – New Family

v. 11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven

Matthew describes the extension of the gospel of Israel’s Messiah to include also those who had no natural claim on him. R.T. France

FORESHADOWS GLOBAL Outreach – goes into HIGH Gear at Pentecost

They glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.” Acts 11.18

c. Embraced by Faith

1st Jews thought PATRIARCHS were HOLY HEROES – Deserving Heaven

THEY Too – PHYSICAL Sons & Daughters Heroes – Deserve Heaven TOO

We have BENEFIT of Coming to Text after months Walking with A/I/J

CLEARLY Seen – Like Us - No Claim to God’s Mercy, Not by Good Works

And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15.6

KEY Verse quoted 3 X’s in NT – SAVED by GRACE Alone thru Faith in X

Centurions INSIGHT into FAITH > POWER is bound up in a PERSON

COMMAND of that PERSON has Great Power > esp if Person is GOD!

v. 10 When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.

This PRONOUNCEMENT has Greater KINGDOM-Impact than the Healing
 Only time See Jesus MARVEL in AMAZEMENT – Positively: His Faith
 NO Benefit of growing in Israelite FAMILY – No Training from Youth in Law
 Romans Soldiers – served for 20 year terms – Not Allowed to have Wife & Kids
 Forced to swear PAGAN Religious OATHS to their DIVINE EMPEROR

v. 11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven

Belonging to the Kingdom does NOT depend on ANCESTRY but on FAITH

Many in Matthew’s audience undoubtedly had relatives...who had died in the siege of Jerusalem or whom the Romans enslaved after Jerusalem’s fall.

Craig S. Keener

DISCIPLING the Nations requires END of ETHNIC / Cultural PREJUDICES

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast...the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” Isaiah 25.6-9

v. 12 while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

UNTHINKABLE Idea for Jews – Son of Israel cast into FIRES of HELL?

John the Baptist preached – ANCESTRY to Abe NO Claim on COVENANT

Jews Never imagine SONS of Kingdom would be Lost in Outer Darkness

NO Wonder they set into MOTION plan to KILL Jesus

3. Attentiveness of Jesus

What is Common Theme in these 3 HEALING Stories?

People Others Don't Like – Lepers, Romans, Mo-in-Law!

2nd & 3rd Healing IN Capernaum – Jesus new Hometown, along Sea of Galilee

v. 5 When he entered Capernaum / v. 14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house...



TODAY Village of Capernaum RESTORED

Church Built on Top of foundation Peter's House

Right in this HOME Jesus performed MIRACLE

a. Sees what Most Do Not See

When Peter SAVED NOT Told Reaction of Mother-in-Law??

One thing DO KNOW, Complete Upheaval of Family, Dropped Nets, Followed

Still KEPT his HOUSE – Probably often GONE from it – FUNDS Low?

Maybe Mo-in-L bit ANGRY about Changes Jesus brought to HER Family

Jesus SEES her and LOVES her!!

v. 14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever.

Doubtful that most PHARISEES would have ENTERED Peter's Home

If rare one DID, Not Likely to NOTICE OLD WOMAN Sleeping in CORNER

Seen Bold, Dramatic HEALINGS of LEPERS & ROMANS

Now we see a Simple Everyday Event

NOT Sure WHAT woman's ILLNESS was – How Serious, to HER it Was

World without Aspirin or Antibiotics – FEVER could lead to DEATH

b. Saved to Stay and Serve

v. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him.

Jesus HEALING Power NOT Bound to CHURCHES and CEREMONIES

Jesus HEALED Wherever and Whenever there was NEED for Him

SPONTANEOUS NEVER SCHEDULED

Modern Healers claim to Have Healing Tours – Come Next Wed Night

Never Schedule Healing MEETINGS in Hospitals

NEVER take Healing Mission trips into Outbreaks of EBOLA

Jesus' Healing INSTANTANEOUS – No RECOUPARATION Needed

Even when we FEEL Better after Sickness – Still Need to Take it SLOWLY!

Not her in Power of Jesus – Immediately SHE GOT UP to SERVE

Salvation for HER – Going RIGHT BACK to Place in Life and SERVING

Your FAMILY, SCHOOL, FRIENDS, FAMILY – they are your Jerusalem!

NEED to SEE your NEW FAITH before they will Believe your MESSAGE

True Christian – Really SAVED, Not SPECTATOR – Salvation leads to Service

NOT Exemption period – Student, Newlywed, New Job – Still a Servant of God

Some think WAIT until get to ANOTHER Church – Some FUTURE Event

Not Serving Where you Are – May be LEARNING NOT to Serve in Next Place

START Now, Start SMALL – Faithful in SMALL Things, GROW to Larger

c. Suffering, Sovereign, Emmanuel

Matthew's Focus > Jesus – He is EMMANUEL – GOD with US

Ch 1 – He shall be Emmanuel / Ch 28 – I am with you always, until end of age

This Jesus - Words and Works – Preaching and Power – Forever with His People
 vs. 16,17 That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

Key ISSUE is WHO we Believe – Not HOW MUCH they Believe

Disease RISING – AIDS, CANCER, EBOLA, even MEASELS is Back in USA!

Jesus FULFILLED this PROPHECY with His Life, not just Work on CROSS

For Matthew the figure of the Servant of Yahweh in Isaiah which other early Christians looked to only for an explanation of Jesus’ suffering and death, was a more holistic model for Jesus ministry as a whole. R.T. France

He was BEARING Sickness and Disease RIGHT HERE in His Earthly Ministry

Please note that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy in *His life* and not on the cross. He bore man’s sicknesses and infirmities *during His ministry on earth*. To say that there is “healing in the Atonement,” and that every believer has the “right” to claim it is to misinterpret Scripture...God is not obligated to heal all sicknesses. He is obligated to save all sinners who call on Him. Warren Wiersbe

US Capitol bldg. Statues Famous People from all 50 States / 2 per State



1 from Hawaii of Catholic priest

See BIG Guy – esp BIG in Black Marble

NOT Hawaiian – Citizen of BELGIUM

Young PRIEST Bishop appointed him to Island of Moloka’i LEPER Colony

DESPERATE Place – Place people were Abandoned, DUMPED to DIE

Lived like SAVAGES – Fighting, Stealing, Sexual Immorality, even Murder

Damien lived his LIFE there – LOVING, Caring, Teaching, Praying

By God's Grace – People came to FAITH in God – Hope, Order, Cleanliness



Here see DAMIEN

YOUNG Priest assigned to Moloka'i
 Lived life in Loving Service to Lepers
 Lepers he Loved INFECTED Damien
 Lost Eye, Fingers, Skin Rubbed Away
 DIED a Leper with the LEPERS

Caring for Sinners too Closely means we MIGHT Catch the Disease
 To FULLY Heal LEPER Jesus had to be an OUTCAST like Leper was
 To Heal Sick He took our SICKNESS on Himself
 To Heal our SINFULNESS – HE became SIN FOR US -

For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.
 Hebrews 13.11,12

This is KING We FOLLOW – Died an OUTCAST for Outcasts like US

RISEN from Dead in Power & Glory – Bring, Healing, and Wholeness to Church

Amazing, Everyday, Emmanuel

Matthew 8:¹ When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ²And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” ³And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”⁵ When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶“Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” ⁷And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” ⁸But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment. ¹⁴And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. ¹⁶That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”