

WELCOME TO SOUTHLAND!

Thanks for joining us!

July 25th 2021

Matthew 8 – Sermon Notes

Intro:

As we trace our way through Matthew 8 this morning, the first line is one that we don't want us to miss. There is an important truth for us to dwell on.

Matthew 7:28-8:1, *“When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law... When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.”*

A. Jesus came down the mountain – will you?

- *“Jesus came down from the mountainside...”* (M.8:1) and immediately jumped into ministry!
- One of the most dangerous things we can do as followers of Christ is to hear his word but fail to act on it. And what I love about Jesus so much, is that he came to not only show us the way, but he came to LEAD THE WAY. **Jesus practiced what he preached.**

Lets look at a few other passages that speak to the importance of *“coming down the mountain”*.

1. **Matthew 7:24-27**, *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”*
2. **Matthew 28:19-20**, *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*
3. **James 1:22-25**, *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.”*

Practical: Ask – Listen – Obey

- In your devotions this week, read a passage (*perhaps out of the S.O.T.M.*) and follow these three simple steps.
 - Ask Jesus what he would like you to say to you from this passage.
 - Listen to what he says (don't overthink it).
 - And then obey in simple faith!
- This is how we come down the mountainside with Jesus! One step at a time.

B. Crowds, Individuals and Disciples

- Another interesting feature of Matthew 8 is back and forth between the **CROWDS** that flocked to Jesus, **INDIVIDUALS** that encountered Jesus, and then finally, the **DISCIPLES** who followed him. Lets look at how Jesus interacted with each of these groups.

CROWDS: Matthew tells us the Jesus's teaching had AMAZED the crowd – he had effectively captivated them, and as a teacher, this was surely seen as a great success!

- Matthew 7:28-29, *“When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.”*
- *While crowds can mean “success”, but we should not automatically assume so.*
- In fact, Jesus worked hard to deter crowds from growing and even sought to evade them on many occasions in his ministry, including later on in Matthew 8.

What does Matthew tell us about Jesus's heart towards the crowd?

- **Matthew 9:36**, *“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”*
- Also, Jesus said to a crowd in **Matthew 11:28**, *“Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

INDIVIDUALS: Its interesting that Jesus chose to move on from the crowd in order to seek out the individual, which tells us something about Jesus's motive. He wasn't looking for stardom, or big lights and a stage, but rather he was compelled by love for people. **JESUS SAW INDIVIDUALS IN THE CROWD.**

- Matthew 8:2-4, *“A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”*

Disciples: The last category of people that we find in this chapter, and throughout the gospels, are those know as “disciples”.

- **What is a disciple, anyways?** Plainly, a disciple is one that sits under another's teaching. Practically, a disciple is one who follows their teacher. Where he goes, they go. What he does, they attempt to do.
- When Jesus spoke to people, especially disciples, he said some really tough things. Take for example this passage, often titled “The Cost Of Following Jesus” in or Bibles.

C. The Cost Of Following Jesus

Matthew 8:18-23, “When Jesus saw the **crowd** around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law [**individual**] came to him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” Another **disciple** said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.” Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.”

If I could summarize this passage into one take away, here is what I would say:

Jesus is teaching us, if we want to be His disciple, we enter by HIS TERMS, not our own.

Two Questions:

1. Does Jesus mean to say that we must all be homeless and live nomadic lives in order to be his disciple?
2. Does Jesus mean to say that we must not attend funerals or seek to fulfill family duties?

The answer to both is NO – that is not *necessarily* what Jesus means to say to us.

1. First, Jesus was not opposed to having homes.
 - a. In fact, Jesus was just IN one of his disciples homes – **PETER!** (**Matthew 8:14**, “When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.”)
 - b. And we see throughout the Old and New Testament that faithful followers of God have lived in homes. Homes to live in are not the problem.
 - c. **Truth: What Jesus is saying is that the call won’t be easy, and will required sacrifice. That counts for us too.**
2. Jesus wasn’t opposed to funerals, or grieving lost loved one either!
 - a. In fact, Jesus modelled this to us when he withdrew privately at the news of John the Baptist death (Matt. 14:13), as well as weeping at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:33-36)!
 - b. Jesus’s answers are descriptive, not prescriptive. That is to say, Jesus was responding to two real people with two real situations, and in this case, a man who was dealing with his fathers funeral.
 - c. The point is, Jesus is not saying that these two things in particular are the cost of following him for all disciples throughout time.
 - d. **Truth: Rather, he IS SAYING that there is a cost to following him, and furthermore, that there is nothing “OFF LIMITS” for Him to ask of us.**

Conclusion: Jesus calls, “Follow me.” ... will you answer?

Matthew 8:23, “Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.”

- Jesus looked at the crowds and had *compassion*. Jesus saw the crowd and noticed the *individual*. And Jesus saw the individual and called them to be a *disciple*.

Jesus is saying to you, “Follow me.” Will you answer?

- ❖ Not because of our worthiness, gifting or ability – but because HE calls us. He doesn’t need us, He *wants* us.
- ❖ Even despite our unworthiness, HE calls us and makes us clean!
- ❖ Discipleship is not on our terms, but on HIS terms.

MAP CHALLENGE:

Week 6: Passage of the Week: Matthew 8

M – memorize Matthew 5:9. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

A – application 1) In your quiet time with the Lord, choose a passage (*perhaps from the Sermon on The Mount*) and do the following: **ASK** Jesus how you can obey that passage that day, **LISTEN** for what he wants to say to you and write it down, and **OBEDY** Jesus in simple faith! 2) who is someone that needs encouragement in your life? Pray and ask God for a word of encouragement and then share it with the person.

P – pray for yourself to have a rekindled love for Jesus and for the Spirit's power to enable you to live for him whole heartily. Then pray for the person you are going to encourage this week. Pray that they would experience the unmerited grace and love of God. Pray also for our church to grow in love for Jesus and discipling others.