



The Gospel According To MATTHEW

Chapter 8

“Jesus Is Lord Of All!”

> Chapter 8 focuses on the *omnipotence* (being all-powerful) of Christ! We’ll experience seven incredible events (1) *HIS TOUCH*, (2) *HIS WORD*, (3) *HIS SERVICE*, (4) *HIS FREEDOM*, (5) *HIS CALL*, (6) *HIS POWER*, (7) *HIS AUTHORITY*!

> *Let’s:*

#1 – (v1-4) EXPERIENCE HIS TOUCH!

- **Leprosy** - was believed to have started in Egypt, the disease was found in a mummy. Leprosy bacillus called mycobacterium leprae is like our contemporary Hansen’s disease. The disease is a zymotic affection produced by a microbe discovered by Hansen in 1871. Currently full control of leprosy has eluded mainly in some parts of Angola, Brazil, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, and the United Republic of Tanzania. These countries have intensified their leprosy control activities.

- **Physical effects of leprosy** – begins with pain in certain areas of the body. Numbness follows. Soon the skin in such spots loses its original color. It gets to be thick, glossy, and scaly. . . . As the sickness progresses, the thickened spots become dirty sores and ulcers due to poor blood supply. The skin, especially around the eyes and ears, begins to bunch, with deep furrows between the swellings, so that the face of the afflicted individual begins to resemble that of a lion. Fingers drop off or are absorbed; toes are affected similarly. Eyebrows and eyelashes drop out. By this time one can see the person in this pitiable condition is a leper. By a touch of the finger one can also feel it. One can even smell it, for the leper emits a very unpleasant odor. Moreover, since the disease-producing agent frequently also attacks the larynx, the leper’s voice acquires a grating quality. His throat becomes hoarse, and you can now not only see, feel, and smell the leper, but you can hear his rasping voice. And if you stay with him for some time, you can even imagine a peculiar taste in your mouth, probably due to the odor. (William Hendriksen, 1927, Eerdmans)

- **Religious & Social effects of leprosy** – As God loved His people Israel, he gave some health regulations to protect their well-being. Regarding leprosy Leviticus chapter 13 said that if a person had a disease, such as the skin disease of leprosy, they were to be taken to the priest for examination. If the priest determined this rash to be serious the person would be isolated for seven days, if it persisted then another seven days, if it spread no further the person was pronounced clean, however, if the disease continued to spread like a rash the person was pronounced unclean. Leprosy would cause the skin to swell and become raw and the person’s hair would turn white. When a person was found to have a serious case of leprosy his clothes were to be torn, his head uncovered, his mouth covered, and he was to cry “Unclean! Unclean!” everywhere he went. This person would be legally ostracized and forbidden to live in any community with their fellow Israelites (Num. 5:2). There were 61 defilements of ancient Judaism; leprosy was second only to a dead body in seriousness. The Jew would not come closer than 6 feet to a leper and would stay 150 feet away if they were down wind.

(v2) Notice the leper “worships” Jesus, whereas worship only belongs to God. Notice the leper calls Jesus “*Lord*” in the Greek it is “*Kurios*” which is an acknowledgment of deity. Notice the leper asks Jesus for the impossible, that which God can only do. The general use of the word *Kurios* translated either “*Lord*” or “*Master*” in the New Testament is as a divine title some 650 times, proving the deity of Christ.

(v3) Jesus “touches him” and cleanses the leper of this hideous disease. Has Jesus touched you? Have you been healed from the hideousness of sin? For the wages of sin is death? Let the Son of God touch you today!

(v4) Leviticus chapter 14 shows the types of offerings given for the cleansing. Observe, *Leviticus 14:3-7 - And the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall examine him; and indeed, if the leprosy is healed in the leper, then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop. And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water. As for the living bird, he shall take it, the cedar wood and the scarlet and the hyssop, and dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water. And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose in the open field.*

- In **Romans 4:25** it says Jesus “was delivered up because of our offenses and was raised because of our justification.” Representing His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

#2 – (v5-13) EXPERIENCE HIS WORD!

(v5) In the Roman army a **centurion** was a captain over one hundred men.

(v6-9) The Roman captain has faith in Christ and calls Him “*Kurios*,” and as “*Kurios*” the captain also knows that Jesus only needs to command (“*speak a word*”) for anything to happen.

(v10-13) Jesus is saying that those Jews who should believe in Him as their Messiah won’t, and those who aren’t Jews will believe.

In John 1:10-13 - He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

#3 – (v14-15) EXPERIENCE HIS SERVICE!

- **Insight:** Peter was not the first Pope; he has a mother-in-law, meaning he was married. Jesus touched her hand, she was healed, and she began to serve. Many in the church are sick in the hospital of complacency. It’s time to get up and go for God! Let God use your life!

Colossians 3:23-24 says, *And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the lord you shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

#4 – (v16-17) EXPERIENCE HIS FREEDOM!

- **What is the meaning of verse 17?** Does it mean that we should never be sick, as the “*false faith teachers*” preach?

John MacArthur explains the passage succinctly, “Those who claim Christians should never be sick because there is healing in the atonement should also claim that Christians should never die, because Jesus also conquered death in the atonement. The central message of the gospel is deliverance from sin. It is the good news about forgiveness, not health. Christ was made sin, not disease, and He died on the cross for our sin, not our sickness. As Peter makes clear, **Christ’s wounds heal us from sin, not from disease. “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness” (1 Peter 2:24).**

- We will be healed, more accurately *glorified*? When we reach heaven!

According to 1 Corinthians 15:46-58 - *However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

Also, 2 Corinthians 5:1-8 - *For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

#5 – (v18-22) EXPERIENCE HIS CALL!

- Here Jesus tests the hearts of some would be disciples.

First, a scribe is tested regarding comfort; the Christian life is not comfortable in this world.

Secondly, the next individual is tested regarding priority. This person wanted to wait at home for his father to die and then he would follow Jesus.

Jesus said, in Matthew 16:24-27 - *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

#6 – (v23-27) EXPERIENCE HIS POWER!

Jesus has power over all creation! He is "Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us" (Mt. 1:23).

- Jesus is teaching us to live by FAITH not by fear!

In 1 John 4:18-19 - *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.*

In Hebrews 2:14-15 - *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

#7 – (v28-34) EXPERIENCE HIS AUTHORITY!

In verse 29 the demons declared that Jesus is the Son of God and that they are subject to Him for judgment.

James 2:19-20 - *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! The pigs perished with demons into the sea, whereas the devil and the demons will meet their fate in the lake of fire (hell).*

Matthew 25:41-42 - *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels'"*

Revelation 20:10 - *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

**> Confess today that Jesus is Lord of all, especially your life, before it's too late!
- Matthew 10:32-33 - *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.***

Philippians 2:10-11 - *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*