

Matthew 8:1 - 9:8

Day 1

Jesus Heals. Read Matthew 8:1-13

Healing a Leper

1. What happened after Jesus' Sermon on the Mount? 8:1 (Cf. 4:25)
2. Who approached Jesus? How would you describe the man's attitude and appeal to Jesus? 8:2 (Do you think he had heard Jesus' sermon? What did he doubt? Of what was he sure?)
 - Consider: What risk was he taking in coming to Jesus? How would society have treated this man?

FYI: "People with leprosy were officially certified unclean and excluded from society. When approaching healthy people, they were obliged to shout, 'unclean! Unclean!' so that the others could avoid being contaminated by contacts. (Lev. 13:45-46)"
- The Africa Bible Commentary (112)

3. How did Jesus respond? 8:3 How unexpected would this have been? Leviticus 5:3 (Consider what this would communicate to a leper.)
4. How complete was the healing? 8:3 What kinds of changes in his body would this have required?
5. What did Jesus tell him to do? 8:4 (See Leviticus 14:2)? What reasons do you see for Jesus' desire for secrecy? (See John 6:14,15)
 - By following Jesus' command 8:4, to whom would the leper's healing be a witness? (How rare would this probably have been?)

Digging Deeper

For accounts of someone being healed of leprosy see Exodus 4:6-7; Numbers 12:10-15; 2 Kings 5:1-14.

Healing a Centurion's Servant

6. What did a Roman centurion "ask/plead for? 8:5,6

FYI: "The **centurion** is obviously a Gentile, because a centurion was an officer in the Roman Army. Almost every Jew under Roman occupation felt a reason to hate this centurion, yet he comes to a Jewish teacher, and not for a selfish reason, but on behalf of his servant."
- David Guzik

7. How surprising would Jesus' response have been? 8:7

8. Why did the centurion protest Jesus' offer? 8:8a

- What did he believe about the extent of Jesus' power and authority? 8:8b,9 (What *kind/level* of authority would this have to be?)

9. How did Jesus feel about the man's faith? 8:10

10. How did Jesus expand on this Gentile's example of faith? 8:11 (See Psalm 22:27)

- What did He warn about the unbelief of many of the Jews? 8:12 ("sons of the kingdom"- see Romans 9:4)

FYI: "Such great faith: "The fact that such faith is present in a Gentile causes Jesus to announce that there will be Gentiles in the kingdom of heaven. They will even sit down to dinner with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! This was an earth-shattering idea to many of the Jewish people of Jesus' day... As well, Jesus reminds his Jewish listeners that just as the Gentile's racial identity is no automatic bar to the kingdom, *their* racial identity is no guarantee of the kingdom."
- David Guzik

11. How did Jesus heal the man? 8:13 How complete was the healing?

Applying the Word: *How do these experiences of people make you feel about taking your problems to the Lord? How do you picture Him responding?*

Day 2

Jesus Heals and Teaches. Read Matthew 8:14-22

Healing Peter's Mother-in-law and Others

12. What glimpse does 8:14,15 give you into Jesus' ministry and Peter's life?

13. How did Jesus heal Peter's mother? 8:15 Again, how complete was the healing?

14. What happened later that day? 8:16 What control did Jesus have over demons?

- What variety of diseases do you think these might have been? How do you see Jesus handling each case?
- What did this fulfill? 8:17

FYI: "Matthew rightly sees this as a partial fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in [Isaiah 53:1-12](#), which primarily refers to spiritual healing, but also definitely includes physical healing. In this, Matthew shows Jesus as the true Messiah in delivering people from the bondage of sin and the effects of a fallen world...the physical dimension of our healing is partially realized now, but finally only in resurrection."
- David Guzik

15. How demanding was Jesus' ministry becoming? 8:18 (See John 21:25)

16. From 8:1-17, what different types of people do you see being healed?

"A Jew with no social or religious privileges.

A Gentile member of the army occupying and oppressing Israel." (David Guzik)

- How did the requests differ?
- What different methods did Jesus use to heal?
- What does this say to you about Jesus' heart?

Discipleship

17. What offer did the scribe make to Jesus? 8:19 (Do you think Jesus may have had many offers like this?)

- With what facts did Jesus confront him? 8:20 (Cf. 2 Corinthians 8:9) What was Jesus asking the man to contemplate? (See Luke 14:27,28)

18. What request did another one of Jesus' disciples make? 8:21

- What did Jesus tell him to do? 8:22 What was He saying about priorities? What opportunity was He still giving the man?

FYI: *"permit me first to go and bury my father.* Actually, this man did not ask for permission to dig a grave for his deceased father. He wanted to remain in his father's house and care for him until the father died. This was obviously an indefinite period, which could drag on and on." - David Guzik

19. Why do you think Jesus was warning these men about their commitments? What do you think may have happened after these warnings?

Applying the Word: *What has impressed or surprised you the most about Jesus' dealings with people so far? About His handling of crowds and pressures?*

Day 3

Storm at Sea; Casting out Demons. Read Matthew 8:23-34

Storm at Sea

20. What peril did the disciples find themselves in and why? 8:23,24

- How severe was this storm? (See Luke 8:23)

FYI: "The Sea of Galilee is well known for its sudden, violent storms. The severity of this storm is evident in the fact that the disciples (many of which were experienced fishermen on this very sea) were terrified." - David Guzik

21. Why do you think Jesus' was asleep? 8:25

- In what ways do you see the action that the disciples took (8:25) as commendable?

22. Instead of the storm, what did Jesus see as the problem? 8:26a

Food for Thought: "Faith is putting one's trust in Jesus even in the most difficult of situations whether spiritual, physical, emotional or mental." - Africa Bible Commentary (1127)

23. How did Jesus calm the storm? 8:26b (Imagine the instantaneous changes in the weather and the conditions on the lake! What would that have been like?)

- What question did this miracle raise in the minds of the disciples? 8:25 (What was the only answer? See Psalm 89:8,9)

Casting Out Demons

24. Where did Jesus go next? 8:28a

FYI: "Gadara was primarily a Greek city, one of the cities of the DECAPOLIS. It also was the capital city of the Roman province of Perea. The ruins of Gadara, present-day Um Qeis...indicate that at one time Gadara was a large and beautiful city."
- Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

25. What condition were the demonized men in? 8:28

- What did the demons' fear about Jesus? 8:29 (Cf. Rev. 20:10) How did they address Jesus?
- What did they understand about Jesus' intentions? 8:31

FYI: "These "devils" (actually **demons**, or evil spirits...) could recognize Jesus for who He was, even though He was now also a man."
- Henry Morris

26. What happened to the swine? 8:32 What did this show about the demon's intentions with the man? (See John 10:10)

Digging Deeper

Luke and Mark give similar accounts about one man. How did the man react to his healing? 8:38

27. Why do you think the people of the region asked Jesus to leave? 8:3,34 (See Luke 8:37)

What ministry did Jesus give the man? 8:39

28. What assurance does Christ's death on the cross gives us? Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 1:22

- Even though Christ disarmed these "powers", what battle do we still fight and how do we fight it? Ephesians 6:12,13

Applying the Word: What do these miracles show about the greatness of Christ's power and authority? Is your view of Jesus changing in any way?

Day 4

Healing and Teaching. Read Matthew 9:1-8

Healing a Paralytic

29. Where did Jesus go next? 9:1 From Luke 5:17, who was there?

30. What did Jesus see in the men? 9:2 What issue did Jesus address first? 9:2

- What problem did this cause? 9:3 (Why is claiming to forgive sins a problem? Luke 5:21b)

Digging Deeper

Under Old Testament law, what was the penalty for blasphemy? Leviticus 24:15-16

31. What did Jesus know? 9:4 (See Jeremiah 17:10)

- What is the answer to Jesus' question? 9:5? Why would this put the scribes in a dilemma?

32. How did Jesus connect His question with His actions? 9:6

- What authority and power is associated with the "Son of Man?" Daniel 7:13,14; Mark 13:26,27 Who was Jesus claiming to be?

33. How complete was the paralytic's healing? 9:7 See also Luke 5:25 (Consider: What kinds of miraculous biological changes would this require?)

34. Underline other claims to authority Jesus made:

- John 5:21-23 "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but
- has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. NIV
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, NASU
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. NASU

35. Underline the claims Jesus made in the following and the reactions of the Jews.

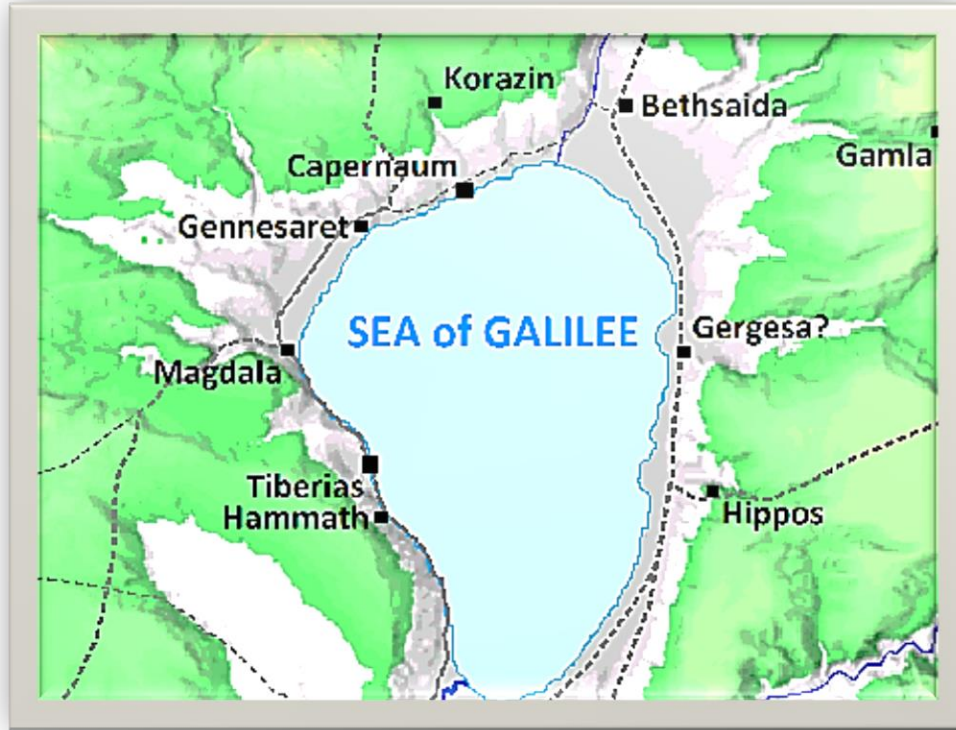
- John 5:18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. NASU
- John 8:56-59 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." 57 "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. NIV
- John 10:30-33 I and the Father are one." 31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" 33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God." NIV
- John 10:38-39 even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." 39 Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp. NIV
- John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, "Show us the Father"? NASU

36. What effect did this miracle have on the people? 9:8

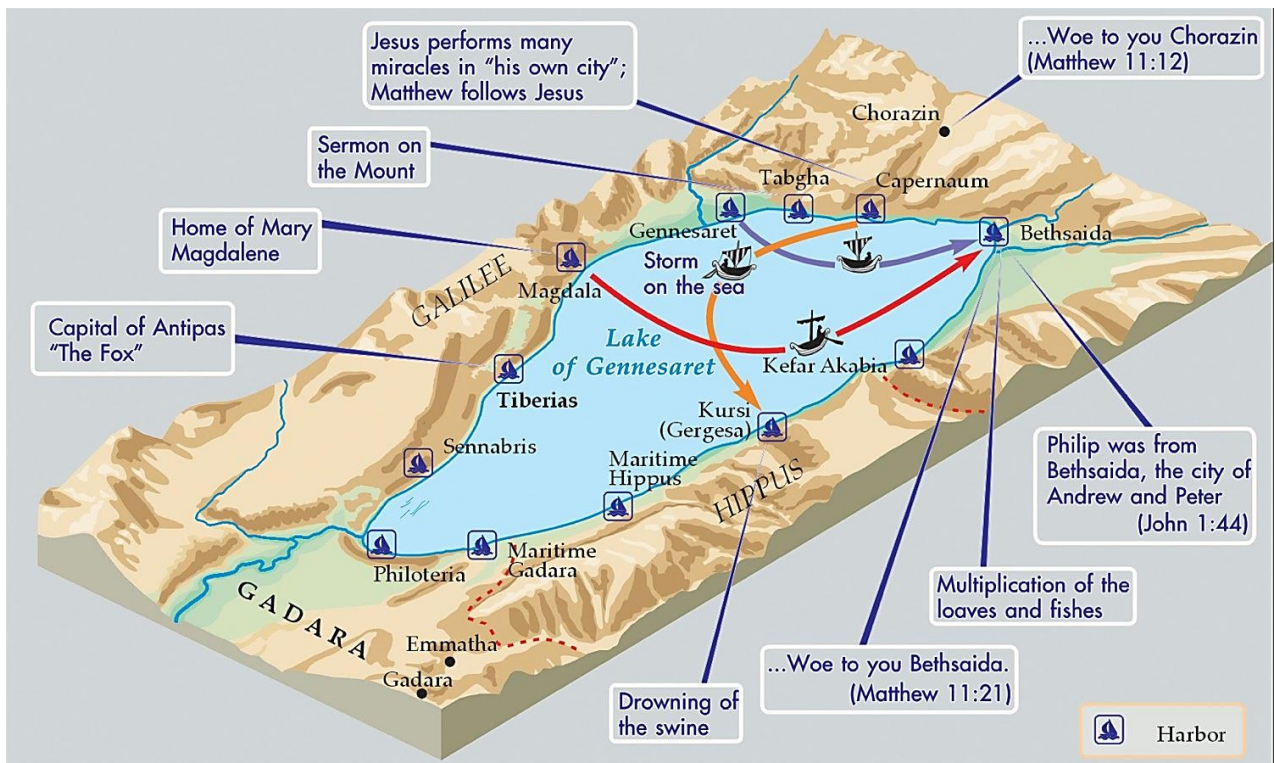
Applying the Word: What do these events tell you about the overarching goal of Jesus interaction with people? (i.e. What deeper issues was He always addressing? What understanding did He want people to come to?)

*The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this?
Even the winds and the waves obey him!"*

Matt 8:27 NIV



http://bibleatlas.org/full/sea_of_tiberias.htm



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