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By Dan Maines

Matthew 8

Matthew 8:1

When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him.

† After teaching with authority, Jesus demonstrates His authority with miracles. The crowds who heard now witness the power of His kingdom.

† Josephus records how prophets were often followed by multitudes, but none with the power Jesus displayed (Antiquities 20.97).

† To us today, it shows that Christ's authority is both in word and deed.

Matthew 8:2-4

And a man with leprosy came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Jesus reached out with His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

† Leprosy made one unclean and excluded from covenant life. Jesus not only heals but restores the man to the covenant community.

† The Mishnah records the strict laws for lepers (Negaim 14:1). Jesus fulfills the law, commanding the offering to Moses.

† To us today, it shows that Christ restores the outcast and makes the unclean whole.

Matthew 8:5-7

And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, begging Him, and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, terribly tormented." Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

† A Roman centurion, a Gentile, shows faith in Christ. This fulfills the promise that nations would be blessed through Abraham.

† Tacitus described centurions as men of discipline and authority (Histories 1.48). This man recognized true authority in Jesus.

† To us today, it shows that faith transcends national boundaries.

Matthew 8:8-10

But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." Now when Jesus heard this, He was amazed, and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel."

† The centurion recognizes Jesus' authority is absolute. His faith exceeds that of Israel's leaders.

† Origen praised the centurion's humility and faith as the model of Gentile belief (Homilies on Luke 6).

† To us today, it shows that true faith trusts Christ's word without demanding signs.

Matthew 8:11-12

"And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

† Jesus declares the ingathering of the nations and the rejection of unbelieving Israel. This was fulfilled in the first-century judgment.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls anticipated Gentiles excluded, but Jesus reverses it (1QM 1.3).

† To us today, it shows that the kingdom includes all who believe, regardless of ancestry.

Matthew 8:13

And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

† The healing demonstrates faith's power and Christ's authority.

† To us today, it shows that faith in Christ's word brings life.

Matthew 8:14-15

When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. And He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and served Him.

† The healing is immediate and complete, showing Christ's power over sickness.

† The Mishnah considered fever dangerous and unclean (Niddah 7:4). Jesus instantly restores her to service.

† To us today, it shows that Christ's healing restores us to serve Him.

Matthew 8:16-17

Now when evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. This happened so that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled: "He Himself took our illnesses and carried away our diseases."

† Matthew quotes Isaiah 53:4, fulfilled in Jesus' healing ministry. He bore both spiritual and physical burdens.

† Justin Martyr cited this passage as proof that Christ was the suffering servant (Dialogue with Trypho 91).

† To us today, it shows that Christ fulfills prophecy in both word and power.

Matthew 8:18-22

Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea. Then a scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." But Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

† Discipleship requires full commitment. Earthly concerns cannot delay following Christ.

† The Mishnah records the burial of parents as a primary duty (Peah 1:1), yet Jesus places discipleship above all.

† To us today, it shows that nothing comes before Christ.

Matthew 8:23-27

When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. And behold, a violent storm developed on the sea, so that the boat was being covered by the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the

winds and the sea obey Him?"

† The calming of the storm demonstrates Christ's authority over creation. Just as God calmed the seas in the Old Testament, Jesus proves His divine authority.

† Philo described God as the one who rules the elements (On the Creation 59). Jesus demonstrates that role.

† To us today, it shows Christ's authority extends over nature itself.

Matthew 8:28-32

And when He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men confronted Him as they were coming out of the tombs. They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. And they cried out, saying, "What business do You have with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now there was a herd of many pigs feeding at a distance from them. And the demons begged Him, saying, "If You are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of pigs." And He said to them, "Go!" And they came out and went into the pigs; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters.

† The demons recognize Jesus' authority. Their destruction in the pigs symbolizes unclean spirits returning to chaos.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls describe cosmic conflict with spirits of wickedness (1QM 13.10). Jesus demonstrates total victory.

† To us today, it shows Christ has power even over the unseen realm.

Matthew 8:33-34

And the herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported

everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they pleaded with Him to leave their region.

† The people feared Jesus' authority more than they rejoiced in deliverance. They valued their livestock over salvation.

† To us today, it warns us not to prefer worldly gain over Christ's presence.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.97

† Mishnah, Negaim 14:1; Niddah 7:4; Peah 1:1

† Tacitus, Histories 1.48

† Origen, Homilies on Luke 6

† Dead Sea Scrolls: 1QM 1.3; 13.10

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 91

† Philo, On the Creation 59

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