



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King has the power to heal!

Matthew 8:1-17

Message #24 of 80 – S1054

Sermon given on July 16, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King has the power to heal!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 8**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- If you are in good health, praise God.
- When we were young, we usually didn't think much about sickness and disease.
- We all got sick, but then we would get better, and we would move on.
- As we get older, sickness, disease, infirmities are more front of mind.
- More people we know have some kind of health issues.
- When we get together, a larger portion of our conversation is about our aches and pains or upcoming procedures.
- I used to think that was something old people did.
- It is weird when I catch myself doing it.
- Today's text focuses on three people who have real problems who come to Jesus for His help.
- Each of the teaches us something about how we ought to approach for what we need.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give us ears to hear. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King has the power to heal!**
- Last week we concluded the section of Matthew that is called the Sermon on the Mount.
- The thing that made Jesus' attitudes and principles in the Sermon on the Mount so powerful was the power behind them.
- For Jesus to be the King, He must have the power to back up what it is that He is saying.
- One of the most profound expressions of His power were the people He healed.

- When the disciples of John the Baptist asked Jesus if He was the Messiah they were waiting for, He said: **Matthew 11:5**
The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
- Jesus is still healing people, both physically and spiritually.
- Let's get into our text.
- **Matthew 8:1**
- Jesus comes down from the mountain where He is called upon to do more ministry.
- **Matthew 8:2**
- Leprosy was a terrible disease.
- Leprosy would slowly consume the body of its victim.
- In the Bible, leprosy is a picture of sin.
- It is used that way throughout the Bible.
- It was believed by most people that a leper was cursed by God and had been set aside for destruction.
- This leper comes boldly up to Jesus and makes a statement.
- Notice, he didn't ask to be healed.
- He expressed his faith in Jesus' power.
- He believed that Jesus could heal him, but he wasn't sure Jesus would be willing to do it.
- **Matthew 8:3**
- This is a radical thing that Jesus does.
- Lepers were driven from all human contact because a single touch was enough to spread this dreadful disease.
- So, what does Jesus do; He reaches out and touches this leprous man and heals him.
- Jesus didn't have to touch him.
- We are going to see in a few minutes where Jesus healed someone long distance.
- Jesus touched him because as a leper he had gone without human touch for a long time.
- When God heals us of the disease of sin He touches our lives and draws us back into fellowship with Himself and makes it possible for us to be in fellowship with others. **Ephesians 2:13**

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

- Jesus tells the man what to do next.
- **Matthew 8:4**
- Jesus didn't want people to focus on the miracles and miss the message.
- Too often people get caught up in the show and forget there is a message.
- Some churches are built around that reality.
- It is interesting that Jesus tells the leper to go to the priests.
- He did it because it was commanded in the Law of Moses **Leviticus 14:3**

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, ⁴ then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living *and* clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.

- During the time of Jesus, leprosy was incurable.
- If you became a leper; you would ultimately die – isolated and alone.
- Also, the Bible only records two people being healed of leprosy, Miriam, Moses' sister, and Naaman, the Syrian general.
- Jesus wanted the priests to see this man who had been healed of leprosy. '...as a testimony to them.'
- Jesus knew that the report of someone being healed of leprosy would have a tremendous effect upon the priests to help them to believe that He was the Messiah.
- His plan was effective, of course. **Acts 6:7**

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

- Jesus continues His way but doesn't get too far before someone else comes to Him who has a need.
- **Matthew 8:5-6**
- There is a lot that could be said about this centurion. He was a Roman officer who oversaw a group of between one hundred and two thousand men.
- All the centurion does is tell Jesus what his need is, and Jesus responds.

- **Matthew 8:7**

- I think we could all learn a lesson from these last two men who have approached Jesus.
- The leper knew that Jesus could meet his need and said that and was healed.
- The centurion simply stated what His need was Jesus responded by saying that He would meet that need.
- We don't need to tell God how to solve our problems; He already knows how He is going to solve our problems. **Philippians 4:6-7**
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- God can do so much more than we can think or imagine.
- Let God know what you need and then let Him decide how He is going to use His unlimited power to meet that need.
- This centurion believed Jesus could meet his need.
- **Matthew 8:8-13**
- This centurion had the faith to believe that if Jesus was who everyone said He was that He didn't need to go to his servant to heal him.
- This rich Roman soldier probably didn't know much about prophecy or what the Old Testament said about the Messiah.
- He was probably operating on the testimony of what others were saying about Jesus.
- This centurion made a choice to believe.
- We now come to the third display of Jesus' power.
- **Matthew 8:14-15**
- Peter's mother-in-law has a fever.
- No one says a word; Jesus sees the need and meets it immediately.
- That in itself is pretty amazing, but it is her response that I would like to draw your attention to.
- What did she do after she was healed? She got up and served them!
- Three different people are healed and there are three different responses to that healing power.
- The leper became a witness to the priests and his family and friends.

- The centurion was probably even more helpful to the Jews and Christians.
- Peter's mother-in-law got up and served the Lord and His disciples.
- All three of these people came to Jesus because they could not save themselves.
- After being saved, their natural response was to do something for Jesus.
- That should be the natural response of anyone Jesus has saved from the disease of sin.
- The natural response of someone who has been saved from the pit of hell ought to be to serve the One who saved them.
- Only the power of God could save you from the fate that you and everyone else deserved.
- Let me ask you: Are you being a witness to the power of Jesus Christ?
- Are you doing things that can make life easier for other Christians?
- Are you serving the Lord directly in the church?
- What are you doing to say thank you to Jesus for saving you?
- Peter's mother-in-law served Jesus and the disciples because they weren't through for the day yet.
- **Matthew 8:16-17**
- One thing you will notice about Jesus is that He never refused to heal someone who came to Him.
- You should also note that He did not qualify them prior to healing them.
- He healed anyone and everyone.
- This is important for us to understand.
- Some people think that they are somehow too bad or too far away from Jesus.
- No one is so far away from Jesus or so diseased that Jesus can't heal.
- They only need to come to Him to be healed.
- If you are here today, you have probably been healed by Jesus of the fatal disease of sin.
- We will all still have to deal with physical things, we do so with the hope of a day when all our weaknesses and infirmities are taken away

and this mortal body is replaced with one that doesn't age or break or become diseased. We should share this hope with others.

- That may not make mortal things easier, but the hope we have can help us to endure.
- If you are here and you are strong and healthy – rejoice and enjoy it.
- The rest of us will try not to groan as we stand up and we will try to resist sharing our latest medical findings with you. Let's pray!