



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King has the power to save!

Matthew 8:18-27

Message #25 of 80 – S1055

Sermon given on July 23, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King has the power to save!

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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**
- Before we start this morning, I would like to make a correction to something I said last week.
- I said the Bible only records two people being healed of leprosy.
- I mis-spoke – I meant only two people were healed of leprosy in the Old Testament.
- I would like to thank those of you who corrected me on that error.
- At the end of the Sermon on the Mount the people were amazed.
- Jesus spoke with the power of authority.
- Chapter 8 begins with a display of Jesus' power to heal.
- It will finish with more displays of Jesus' power.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us better understand Jesus and His power. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King has the power to save!**
- Jesus had just finished teaching the Sermon on the Mount.
- After He came down, He did three healings: the leper, the centurion's servant, and Peter's mother-in-law.
- And then almost as an afterthought, Mathew tells us that Jesus healed many people of various things.
- This was not going unnoticed by the people around Capernaum.
- **Matthew 8:18**
- Jesus often did things that didn't make sense from a human perspective.
- He had just preached the immensely powerful Sermon on the Mount and then healed many people of various conditions.
- Then great multitudes gather. Probably thousands of people.

- The preacher in me says, Great, let's teach them some more about God and His kingdom.
- Jesus' response is, let's get out of here.
- Whenever I come to something like this that doesn't make sense and is not explained, I comfort myself with the words of the prophet

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

- It would be pretty arrogant to believe we can understand everything that is in the mind of God.
- On the way from Peter's house to the lake, they are thronged by the multitude.
- Matthew highlights two encounters Jesus has on the way.
- **Matthew 8:19-20**
- The scribes were educated and regularly played a role in interpreting the Law of Moses.
- Jesus often had a problem with this group because they tended toward a legalistic interpretation of the Law.
- Some of the harshest Jesus said were against the scribes and the Pharisees. **Matthew 23:13**

But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in *yourselves*, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

- The scribe simply declared that he was willing to follow Jesus wherever He went.
- Jesus then responds with a description of His poverty.
- The implication is that the scribe thought following Jesus would lead to his personal prosperity.
- Jesus knew the scribe's heart and motivations.
- We can't hide anything from Jesus. He knows even our most secret thoughts.
- 'Son of Man' – first occurrence in the New Testament.
- 87 total occurrences in the New Testament, 83 of them in the gospels, almost always Jesus referring to Himself.
- This title was also used in connection with the Messiah, the Savior.

- Daniel received a vision of the end times that used this title to describe someone before the throne of God (**Daniel 7:13-14**).

I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

- It is written in such a way as to make this person equal to God.
- By attributing this title to Himself, Jesus is saying that the Daniel 7 prophecy is about Him.
- This is pointing to the degree to which Jesus, God in the flesh stooped to come down to save us.
- He was with God from eternity past in the glory and perfection of heaven.
- He existed in the perfect holiness of His deity with His holy Father.
- But to save us, He had to set all that aside (**Philippians 2:5-8**).

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

- Jesus chose to refer to Himself as the Son of Man as a way of communicating His relationship to humankind.
- Whatever this scribe was looking for, he wasn't going to find it in following Jesus.
- Matthew relates another brief conversation.
- **Matthew 8:21-22**
- The word 'dead' could be used to express an attitude toward something or someone.
- Paul used that idea when he spoke of how we should relate to sin (**Romans 6:11**).

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- A dead person is not tempted to sin.
- This means that sin and the world should have no influence over us.
- The people in the world are dead to God and we should be dead to the things of the world.

- ‘let the dead bury their own dead’ – Since dead people can’t bury other dead people, Jesus must be speaking about the spiritual dead.
- If we must choose between following Christ or taking care of the needs of the spiritually dead, Jesus says we should follow Him.
- Jesus is saying, ‘Let those who are spiritually insensitive to God take care of people who are spiritually insensitive to God.’
- Eventually they make it to the boat.
- **Matthew 8:23-26**
- Remember, this is the same day Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount and did all the miracles of healing.
- He is tired and falls asleep in the boat.
- We sometimes forget that Jesus was fully human and subject to the same weaknesses we all have – hunger, thirst, and exhaustion.
- As He sleeps, a storm arises. The men in the boat freak out.
- Many of these men were seasoned fishermen who had fished upon this lake for their entire lives.
- The very fact that Jesus asks the question suggests that they had nothing to fear.
- If Jesus, our Savior-King is with us, we have nothing to fear. **Albert Barnes**
“Christians should never fear danger, disease, or death. With Jesus they are safe.”
- It is our faith that tells us this is true.
- If your faith isn’t telling you that, the problem is not with Jesus, it is a problem with your faith.
- This display of power is overwhelming to the men in the boat.
- **Matthew 8:27**
- In their minds the storm came from God and only God could calm it.
- As believers, we know storms will come.
- They will either be caused by God for some great purpose in the world or in our lives or He will allow them for the same reasons.
- Either way, they passed through God’s hands, and it will be an act of God’s grace and mercy that will end the storm.
- Walk in faith in the storm putting all your trust in Him (**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; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- The disciples are still learning who Jesus is.
- We all go through this same process.
- When we first meet Jesus, we don't know that much about Him and what He can do.
- Only as we walk with Him over time, endeavoring to know Him better do we learn about Him more.
- This must be a deliberate act of seeking to know Jesus better.
- It is possible to live a life that seems to be walking with Jesus and yet not get to know Him.
- How tragic to stand before Jesus and hear Him say, 'I never knew you. Depart from me.'
- Jesus has the power to save us, no matter what storm comes up in our lives.
- Jesus didn't tell the men to row harder or raise more sails – He challenged them to believe.
- To believe what? To believe He had power over the storm, the wind, and the waves.
- He had already proven that He had power over the physical ailments that were common but impossible for man to deal with.
- In this account we see that Jesus had power over the storm.
- But we also see that He had peace within the storm.
- His was the peace of God that surpasses our human understanding.
- Paul said that peace was available to anyone who put their trust in God.
- All it takes is faith – simply believe and stand.
- In another account of a storm on the sea of Galilee Jesus walked on the waves of the storm to the disciples who were struggling in the boat.
- In that account we learn that we can walk with Jesus in the fiercest of storms and that He will get us safely to the other side.
- Thankfully, life is not all about storms.

- Jesus brings calm into the lives of His people.
- It is during the calm periods of life that we need to seek Jesus most fervently.
- During the storms, we are focused on doing those things that will keep the boat afloat.
- And if we are faithful to seek Christ during the calm, we will have more faith to weather the storm when it comes.
- Seek Jesus while you can.
- And then when the storm comes you can endure it with His peace and walk through with Him by your side.
- And you will also be able to help others as they walk through their storms. Let's pray!