

Matthew 8:18-34 - The King has the power to save!

Scriptures:

18 And when Jesus saw great multitudes

G4183 -

G3793 -

Notes:

Context: 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.

about Him, He gave a command to depart to

Why did Jesus give the command to depart when He saw 'great multitudes around Him?' Humanly speaking, you would think that was what He was looking for.

the other side.

Scriptures:

19 Then a certain scribe came and said to

Notes:

'I will follow' = committing to be a disciple of Jesus.

Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You

G1320 -

G190 -

go."

Scriptures:

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.

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.

²⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes

and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of

Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.”

G3756/G4226 –
no + where

Notes:

‘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). 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). Jesus chose to refer to Himself as the Son of Man as a way of communicating His relationship to humankind.

Jesus is a stranger in the world He created among the creatures He breathed life into.

It was not unusual for Jesus to respond to someone in a way that didn’t seem to make sense compared to what they said or asked Him. 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.

Scriptures:

21 Then another of His disciples said to Him,

“Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”

G2290 -

Notes:

‘disciples’ – This is literally a learner. A disciple was someone who had made a commitment to follow a teacher for the purpose of learning from him. We should not infer saving faith upon this man. It is not clear what he believes about what he has learned from Christ.

‘bury my father’ – His father was not dead. He is asking Jesus to excuse him from following Jesus so that he can go take care of his father until his father dies.

This man was putting his worldly duties before his spiritual responsibilities.

Scriptures:

Romans 6:11 - Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

22 But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let

the dead bury their own dead.”

Notes:

The word ‘dead’ could be used to express an attitude toward something or someone. To say that something is dead to you would suggest that you will respond to it in the same way you would if you were dead – meaning you wouldn’t respond. Paul used that idea when he spoke of how we should relate to sin ([Romans 6:11](#)). This means that sin and 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.’

Jesus is not being insensitive or uncaring. Part of following Christ will include meeting the needs of the spiritually dead as we seek to bring them to Christ. The needs of the spiritually dead will always exceed the resources of God’s people. If we tried to meet all their needs, we would end bankrupt financially, emotionally, and probably spiritually.

Scriptures:

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples

Notes:

followed Him.

Scriptures:

24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the

Notes:

G4578 –
"seismos" - storm

sea, so that the boat was covered with the

waves. But He was asleep.

G2518 -

Scriptures:

25 Then His disciples came to *Him* and awoke

Notes:

They were right to come to Jesus because He was the only One who could save them. The whole world is under the divine wrath of God because of sin. Everyone needs a Savior. But only One has the power to save.

Him, saying, “Lord, save us!”

G4982 - rescue

We are perishing!”

G622 - dying

Scriptures:

26 But He said to them, “Why are you fearful,

G1169 -

Notes:

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.

“Christians should never fear danger, disease, or death. With Jesus they are safe.” (Barnes, 1956) page 90

From storm to flat calm in an instant with a single command.

O you of little faith?” Then He arose and

G3640 - of little faith adj. — characterized by a very weak belief, trust, and reliance (on someone or something); understood in numerical terms as a faith of small quantity.

rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was

G2008 – command, expressing strong disapproval.

a great calm.

G1055 -

Scriptures:
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.

27 So the men marveled, saying, “Who can

G2296 – to be
very amazed.

this be, that even the winds and the sea obey

Him?”

Notes:

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).

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.