Matthew
Chapter 8



As you prepare for this week's study, begin by praying and asking God to open your heart and mind to understand the truths He has for you this week. Then read through this week's chapter, Matthew 8. As you read through the entire chapter, what are your first impressions? What stands out to you?

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Mission 119: Search Matthew and listen to the commentary for Matthew 8-9.

Day 1 – The Big Picture

Matthew 8:1-34

1) What did the text tell us about the social status, condition, or response to Jesus for each of the following people / groups?
   a) Peter _____
      _____
   b) Peter's mother-in-law _____
      _____
   c) The disciples _____
      _____
   d) The crowd _____
      _____
   e) The two demon-possessed men _____
      _____

f) The swine herdsmen _____

_____

g) The townspeople _____

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2) Were there repeated words or phrases in the chapter? What were they?

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3) Trace Jesus' movements geographically (mountain, Capernaum, the sea, the country of the Gadarenes). Use your map. What was significant about these locations?

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4) List the verbs describing Jesus' actions in this chapter.

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5) What miracles did Jesus perform in this chapter? List them in order.

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6) Is this passage primarily descriptive (narrative) or prescriptive (command)?

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7) What surprised you in this chapter? Why?

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8) How did Matthew 8 present Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hopes and promises?

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9) Looking at the chapter's progression (leper, centurion, the sick at Capernaum, would-be followers, the storm, the demon-possessed men), what picture of the kingdom of heaven is beginning to emerge?

10) Throughout the chapter, Jesus crossed boundaries (touching a leper, helping a Gentile, entering Gentile territory). How did this pattern fit into the larger biblical progression toward a kingdom that included Jew and Gentile alike?

Day 2 – The Details

Matthew 8:1-34

1) Who was the first person Jesus interacted with after the Sermon on the Mount? Who initiated the conversation? (v.2)

2) Read Leviticus 13–14 and 2 Chronicles 26:19–21. Summarize the Levitical purity laws regarding skin disease in 1–2 sentences. What was the social and covenantal status of someone with leprosy?

3) Why did Jesus touch the leper before healing him in verse 3? What did this gesture suggest about His character and His relationship to the purity system?

4) What did Jesus' instruction in verse 4 (show yourself to the priest, offer the gift Moses commanded) accomplish within the Levitical system?

5) Research information about Roman centurions. What would this figure represent in the first-century world?

6) What was surprising about the centurion's request and his statement about authority (v.8–9)? What did his understanding reveal that even some of the Israelites had not grasped?

7) How did Jesus respond to the centurion's faith (v. 10), and why did this response matter?

8) Who did Jesus say will recline at the table in the kingdom of heaven, and who will be cast out? (v.11-12)

9) What do we learn about Peter's mother-in-law from her response to being healed? (v.14–15)

10) Look closely at the two would-be followers in verses18–22. What did each man's request reveal about his priorities, and how did Jesus' response differ from what we might expect?

11) In verses 23–34, what happened on the sea and in the country of the Gadarenes? Note the basic sequence of events.

12) In the storm narrative (v.23–27), how did the disciples' fear before the miracle and their fear / awe after the miracle differ? What did this shift suggest?

13) What title was given to Jesus by the demons? (v.29)

14) In verses 28–34, why did the demons recognize Jesus while the townspeople asked Him to leave? What did this contrast reveal about recognition versus reception?

15) Why do you think the swine herdsmen's and townspeople's response was included in the narrative? What did it add to the story?

16) **Is there anything in this chapter new to you?

Day 3 - Connecting the Dots…

1) How did this passage fit within Israel's larger story, particularly the themes of covenant, purity, and who belongs to God's people?

2) The healing of the leper restored him to covenant community. How did this connect to the Old Testament vision of a people made holy and set apart?

3) The centurion was a Gentile, an outsider to Israel's covenant. How did his inclusion (and the warning in verse 11–12) connect to the Old Testament's broader promises that God's blessing would extend to the nations (Genesis 12:3)?

4) Matthew explicitly cited Isaiah 53:4 in connection with Jesus' healing ministry (8:17). How does this shape our understanding of the “Suffering Servant” and His mission?

5) Jesus' authority over the sea (8:23–27) echoed Old Testament imagery of God's mastery over chaos and the waters (Genesis 1, Psalm 107:23–30, Jonah). What did this suggest about who Jesus was?

6) The disciples asked, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey Him?" How did this question point back to Israel's understanding of God alone as Lord over creation?

7) The demon-possessed men lived among tombs in unclean Gentile territory (note the presence of pigs). How did this setting connect to Old Testament categories of clean/unclean and Israel/nations?

Day 4 - Walking the Way of Jesus

1) **Jesus moved toward people others avoided. Who in your life or community do you instinctively keep at arm's length? What would it look like to move toward them this week?

2) **Both the leper and the centurion approached Jesus with bold, yet surrendered faith ("If you are willing," "only say the word"). Where do you need this kind of faith?

3) Is there a part of your story that makes you feel "unclean" or unwelcome in God's presence? How did Jesus' response to the leper speak to that?

4) **The centurion recognized Jesus' authority as far greater than his own. Where do you need to submit your own authority, control, or expertise to Jesus' Word?

5) Jesus marveled at the centurion's faith, an outsider whose faith outpaced many insiders. Is there someone whose faith might surprise you or challenge yours?

6) **What storm in your life right now is exposing the size (or smallness) of your faith?

7) Peter's mother-in-law, once healed, immediately served. How does your response to God's grace translate into serving others?

8) Matthew connected Jesus' healing ministry to bearing our griefs and sorrows. How does it change your view of suffering to know Jesus entered into it rather than staying distant?

9) **Have you counted the cost of following Jesus, or have you assumed it would be comfortable?

10) Is there a good or noble thing in your life that has become a delay tactic, postponing wholehearted obedience to Jesus?

11) The townspeople valued their pigs more than the freedom of two men, and they asked Jesus to leave. Is there anything in your life you'd protect even at the cost of someone else's freedom or well-being? Is there an area where you've quietly asked Jesus to "leave" because His presence demands too much change?

12) **What key point did you learn this week about walking the way of Jesus?

Day 5 - What Do You Think?

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

Today, read chapter 8 with a seeking posture, and be attentive to where God is forming your heart, reordering your priorities, and inviting you into His kingdom life. As you do, take time to reflect on how God's living Word is at work in your life.

Use the questions below to notice where you sense His invitation, conviction, or encouragement. You do not need to answer every question each week. Instead, choose two or three that stand out and spend time with them. Pay attention to where God is leading you toward deeper trust, understanding, and transformation.

1) **What part of God's redemptive story became larger, stranger, or more beautiful after studying this chapter?

2) **What assumptions from this passage quietly challenge you in your life (ideas about identity, comfort, control, security, significance, etc.)?

3) **Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you the hero, someone in the crowd, or someone in need of the grace being revealed?

4) What part of God's kingdom seemed upside down in this passage compared to the kingdom of this world?

5) Did any mystery remain unresolved after reading this chapter? Rather than solving it, how might living with that mystery deepen your trust in God?

6) What invitation did Jesus extend here to experience transformation in your life?

7) If we lived out the truths we've read about in this chapter in our families, workplaces, churches, and neighborhood, what might become more beautiful about our community? What might become uncomfortable?