

CONNECTION Leader Notes – Matthew 8 and 9:1-17

February 6th, 2011

Key Verses

Cleansing the Leper – Matthew 8:1-4

1 When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. 2 And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." 3 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

Faith of the Centurion – Matthew 8:5-13

5 When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, 6 "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." 7 And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. 11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, 12 while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 13 And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

Faith of Peter's Mother-in-law – Matthew 8:14-17

14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. 16 That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

The Little Faith of the Disciples – Matthew 8:18-27

18 Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. 19 And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." 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." 21 Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 22 And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead." 23 And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25 And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." 26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

The Two Demoniacs and the Herd of Pigs – Matthew 8:28-34

28 And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed [fn] men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. 29 And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" 30 Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. 31 And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs." 32 And he said to them, "Go." So 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. 33 The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

Forgiving the Sins of the Paralytic – Matthew 9:1-8

1 And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. 2 And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." 3 And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--he then said to the paralytic--"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." 7 And he rose and went home. 8 When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Calling Matthew, The Tax Collector – Matthew 9:9-17

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. 10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." 14 Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" 15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. 16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. 17 Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

Additional reference verses shown below

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jesus marvel at the faith of the centurion in Matt.8:10? (John 5:20, Matt.15:31, Heb.11:1, 11:6)
2. Did Peter, his wife or his mother-in-law ask Jesus to heal Peter's mother-in-law? (Matt. 8:14-15) What might this incident tell us about Jesus?
3. Describe some characteristics of the shortcomings of the disciples' faith Matt.8:18-27? What should we learn from this?
4. Describe the faith of the Gadarene demoniacs in Matt.8:28-34? (also Luke 4:33-36, Luke 4:41, James 2:19) What can we learn from this encounter?
5. Was it a miracle that Matthew, the tax collector, followed Christ? (Matt.9:9) Why or why not? Do you recognize life change as a miracle today?
6. What does Jesus mean when He says, 'I desire compassion and not sacrifice'? (Matt.9:13, Matt.12:7, Phil.2:1, Col.3:12, James 5:11, Ps.72:13)
7. How do we "righteously" socialize with "sinners" like Jesus did in Matt.9:10-13? (I Cor.5:9-11, I Cor.6:9-11, see notes below)

Additional Supporting Scripture by Topic:

Examples of "Big" Faith – Hebrews 11 – the entire chapter

Examples of "little" faith

Matt. 6:30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!

Matt. 8:26 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.

Matt. 14:31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Matt. 16:8 But Jesus, aware of this, said, "You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread?"

Faith of Demons

Mark 1:34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

Luke 4:33-36 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 "Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst of the people, he came out of him without doing him any harm. 36 And amazement came upon them all, and they began talking with one another saying, "What is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out."

Luke 4:40-41 While the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them. 41 Demons also were coming out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ.

James 2:19 – You believe that God is one, you do well, the demons also believe and shudder.

Examples of Compassion

Psalms 25:4-6 Make me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day. 6 Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, For they have been from of old.

Psa 40:11 You, O LORD, will not withhold Your compassion from me; Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me.

Psa 72:13 He will have compassion on the poor and needy, And the lives of the needy he will save.

Psa 103:13 Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

Dan 1:9 Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,

Mat 9:36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

Mat 12:7 "But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the innocent.

Mat 14:14 When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Mat 15:32 And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, "I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way."

Mat 20:34 Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.

Luk 7:13 When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep."

Luk 10:33 "But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,

Luk 15:20 "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Phil 2:1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

Col 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

Jam 5:11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

Boundaries for Spending Time in the World – Questions to Ask

1. **Will it be spiritually profitable? I Cor. 6:12** All things are lawful. Not all things are profitable. Will my doing this cultivate godliness? Take sleep for example – if sleeping in too often creates laziness.
2. **Will it build me up? Put me on the path to greater spiritual maturity? I Cor. 10:23** – does it edify or build me up? I Cor. 14:26, I Cor. 9:24-27 – bring my body under subjection or control. Self discipline requires training
3. **Will it slow me down in the race? Heb. 12:1-2** lay aside every weight and the sin which entangles. What is the weight vs. the sin? Weight – needless bulk, that which weighs us down, steals our enthusiasm.
4. **Will it bring me into bondage? I Cor. 6:12** All things are lawful for me but I will not be mastered by anything. Do not let anything master or control me.
5. **Will it hypocritically cover my sin? Am I doing it in the name of freedom or “liberty” but really pandering my own lust or evil desires. I Pet. 2:16** – am I really just seeking my own evil desire, What is my motive?
6. **Will it violate the Lordship of Christ in my life?** Romans 14, when we read our Bible or go to church, or what we eat or drink. We live to the Lord not ourselves – be fully convinced in your own mind – is this something I believe the Lord would want me to do
7. **Will it help other Christians by its example? I Cor. 8:9** letting a liberty of yours become a stumbling block or obstacle for a brother. I Cor.9, Rom 14:13 ff don't do anything that makes your brother stumble, must be aware in all situations.
8. **Will it lead others to Christ? I Cor 10:27-29** Will they see Jesus in me? The temple butcher shop, sell cheap meat sacrifice to idols at the best price – the strong does not struggle with this – the weak Christian just saved out of this idol worship does struggle. Offend a non-Christian before offending a weaker brother – don't eat it.. Will it lead someone else to faith? Rom.14.
9. **Will it be consistent with Christ's likeness? Would Jesus do it? Say it? Think it? I John 2:6** - walk as He walked.
10. **Will this glorify God? I Cor. 10:31 – is my life going to lift up God or me?** Is it honoring to God?

John 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

John 17:14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 17:16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 5:9-11 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

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