

STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 31 - The Man With Leprosy - Matthew 8:1-4

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

MT 8:1 When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. [2] A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

MT 8:3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy. [4] Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 31 - The Man With Leprosy - Matthew 8:1-4

- 363. Where did Jesus go after He finished the Sermon on the Mount? (8:1)
- 364. What happened when Jesus came down from the mountain? (8:1)
- 365. What was Jesus' audience like? (8:1)
- 366. What was distinctive about the man who came and blocked Jesus' path? (8:2)
- 367. What did the kneeling man say to Christ? (8:2)
- 368. What daring deed did Christ do for the man with leprosy? (8:3)
- 369. What compassionate words did Christ say? (8:3)
- 370. What happened when Christ finished speaking? (8:3)
- 371. How long did this healing process take? (8:3)
- 372. What strange instructions did Jesus give the man whom He healed? (8:4)
- 373. For what reasons did Jesus want the man to show his healed body to the priests? (8:4)

Lesson 32 - The Faith of the Centurion - Matthew 8:5-13

MT 8:5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. [6] "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering."

MT 8:7 Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him."

MT 8:8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. [9] For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

MT 8:10 When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. [11] I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. [12] But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

MT 8:13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 32 - The Faith of the Centurion - Matthew 8:5-13

374. Where did the incident described in this passage take place? (8:5)
375. Who approached Jesus and asked for help? (8:5)
376. What did the centurion tell Jesus? (8:6)
377. What did Jesus promise the soldier? (8:7)
378. What humble, surprising suggestion did the man make? (8:8)
379. What rationale did the centurion have for making his request? (8:9)
380. What effect did the soldier's words have on Jesus? (8:10)
381. According to Jesus, how many Israelites had as much faith as the centurion? (8:10)
382. What insight did Jesus give about the guest list of the kingdom of heaven? (8:11)
383. What eternal destiny did Jesus suggest awaited many in His audience? (8:12)

384. What instructions did Jesus give the centurion? (8:13)

385. What happened to the centurion's servant? (8:13)

Lesson 33 - Jesus Heals Many - Matthew 8:14-17

MT 8:14 When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. [15] He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

MT 8:16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. [17] This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"He took up our infirmities

and carried our diseases."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 33 - Jesus Heals Many - Matthew 8:14-17

386. What kind of building was Jesus in when the incidents of this passage took place? (8:14)

387. Who owned the building? (8:14)

388. Who was bedridden and sick with a fever? (8:14)

389. What does the identity of the sick woman reveal about Peter's personal life? (8:14)

390. What did Jesus do to the sick woman? (8:15)

391. What happened when Jesus touched the woman's hand? (8:15)

392. What did the woman immediately begin to do? (8:15)

393. What kinds of people were brought to Jesus that evening? (8:16)

394. What did Jesus do for the people who were brought to Him? (8:16)

395. What procedure or technique did Jesus use to help the people who were brought to Him? (8:16)

396. How were these events significant in Jewish history? (8:17)

Lesson 34 - The Cost of Following Jesus - Matthew 8:18-22

MT 8:18 When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. [19] Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

MT 8:20 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

MT 8:21 Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

MT 8:22 But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 34 - The Cost of Following Jesus - Matthew 8:18-22

397. What observation prompted Jesus to cross to the other side of the lake? (8:18)

398. What orders did Jesus give? (8:18)

399. What did the teacher of the law call Jesus? (8:19)

400. What did the teacher of the law claim he would do? (8:19)

401. Who approached Jesus? (8:19-20)

402. What did Jesus tell the teacher of the law he would have to do without? (8:20)

403. What animals did Jesus say were more secure than He? Why? (8:20)

404. Who offered to follow Jesus? (8:21)

405. What did one of Jesus' disciples request? (8:21)

406. What command did Jesus give to the disciple that offered to follow Him under certain conditions? (8:22)

407. How did Jesus handle the disciple's request? (8:22)

Lesson 35 - Jesus Calms the Storm - Matthew 8:23-27

MT 8:23 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. [24] Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. [25] The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

MT 8:26 He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

MT 8:27 The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 35 - Jesus Calms the Storm - Matthew 8:23-27

- 408. What did Jesus do with His disciples? (8:23)
- 409. Who accompanied Jesus in the boat? (8:23)
- 410. What surprise did the boaters encounter in this scene? (8:24)
- 411. How severe was the weather? (8:24)
- 412. What was Jesus doing during the storm? (8:24)
- 413. What did the disciples do? (8:25)
- 414. What did the disciples say? (8:25)
- 415. How did Jesus reply to the disciples' expression of fear? (8:26)
- 416. What did Jesus do when the disciples expressed fear? (8:26)
- 417. What was nature's response to the command of Jesus? (8:26)
- 418. How did the disciples react to this astonishing sequence of events? (8:27)
- 419. What excellent question did the disciples raise? (8:27)

Lesson 36 - The Healing of Two Demon-possessed Men - Matthew 8:28-34

MT 8:28 When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. [29] "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"

MT 8:30 Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. [31] The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

MT 8:32 He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. [33] Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. [34] Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 36 - The Healing of Two Demon-possessed Men - Matthew 8:28-34

- 420. Where did Jesus and the disciples come ashore? (8:28)
- 421. Who met Christ and his men? (8:28)
- 422. What was the spiritual state of the two individuals Jesus met? (8:28)
- 423. Where did the strangers live? (8:28)
- 424. What kind of behavior did the Gadarene men exhibit? (8:28)
- 425. What did the two Gadarene men shout at Jesus? (8:29)
- 426. What was nearby? (8:30)
- 427. Who spoke to Jesus about the nearby herd of pigs? Why? (8:30)
- 428. What request was made of Jesus? Why? (8:31)
- 429. How did Jesus respond to the request that he cast the demons into the herd of pigs? (8:32)
- 430. What happened as soon as Jesus spoke? (8:32)
- 431. How did news of this event reach town? (8:33)
- 432. How did the townspeople react to what happened? (8:34)

