

Faith To Be Healed

Matthew 8:1-22

Welcome back and here we go! Today we continue in Matthew, Chapter 8, which is a chapter that really speaks to Jesus as Messiah who has authority over disease, spirits, time and space, nature and demons.

But today we focus on the healings available in Christ!

Matthew 8:1-22

- 1) What stands out to you?

I always start here in order to gauge where we each are and where our focus is. I think the real question today is how do you feel when we talk about healing? Are you skeptical? Do you think it is for others but doubt it is for you? Or maybe you don't think your needs are big enough or important enough.

Matthew 8:1-4

I think something important here is that the Leper worshipped Jesus first. He came with a heart ready and expecting.

- 2) Why do people doubt healing when it comes to themselves?

In truth, all of us have already received the healing. Our spirits were healed and we were made Spiritually whole when we accepted Christ! Spiritually, we have received ½ the deal. We have the catalyst for all healing --- the Holy Spirit.

So here we see Jesus as Lord and having authority over leprosy.

Matthew 8:5-13

- 3) Do you believe your prayers can heal across distance?

What is being modeled here is Christ's ability to heal across time and space. Just as immediate was the leprosy removed, so was the servant healed.

I would dare say many of our successes stem from our initial response to Jesus. Like the leper, we say "I need you" and BAM, we receive this spiritual healing and that often comes in prayer, supplication and worship, like the leper.

- 4) Why don't we have the Centurion's faith?

We have the faith that God will save us --- but after that do we have the faith that God will use us to heal? You notice ---- He doesn't attempt to heal the servant. He invites Christ to do the healing --- so the question shifts --- not *"Do I have enough faith to heal?"* to --- *"Do I believe Jesus will heal if I ask Him to?"*

It is here in this transaction that our faith wavers. In Chapter 9, we will see another type of wavering faith.

Can Jesus heal? We all say YES! Will Jesus heal if I ask? Well, here is where the Leper and the Centurion stand out. They say YES!

Matthew 8:14-17

Again, we see Jesus as Lord over sickness, and we see the healing is so complete that she gets up and serves. Nowhere does it say she asked... but you can bet people were praying. Then we see Jesus with authority.

Matthew 8:18-22

5) What is Jesus teaching here?

This may seem a little disconnected from our teaching on faith. In reality it is a summation. You see, with Peter's Mother, we see healing then flowing out. Let Jesus flow through you to quiet the spirits operating around you in your life.

You have the ability and the authority to ask Jesus to perform supernatural acts at your request.

However, not from the comfort of your worldly lifestyle. Jesus is *Action in Serving* and that comes at a cost many aren't willing to pay. Hence, following Jesus is not spiritually stationary and furthermore, there are no worldly needs that are more important.

6) What does it mean, *"let the dead bury the dead"*?

Literally, it means to put off serving to perform the months long task of burial of a parent.

Spiritually, we must not allow unbelievers to dictate our actions.

Figuratively, we must leave behind our old life and beliefs.

I would challenge you today to consider the idea that healing of others can be affected by you.

But if you do not change your worldly thoughts and lifestyle, you will not have the confidence in yourself and your connection to the body of Christ.

This is where our home is: in the Eternal Living Body of Christ.

Let's pray God uses us to effect healing in ourselves. First spiritually, then physically.