Matthew 8: 14-27

I. Jesus’ Fulfillment of Isaiah 53 (verses 14-17)
   A. Jesus’ authority over sin (I Peter 2: 21-25)
   B. His authority over sickness (Matthew 8: 15-17)
   C. His authority over death (I Corinthians 15: 54-57)

II. Jesus’ authority in Calling Disciples
   A. The Scribe
      1. Jesus discerned his heart and motives
      2. He had not counted the cost
      3. He possibly thought there was financial and popular gain in following Jesus
   B. The faithful son/would be disciple
      1. Jesus discerned his heart and motives
      2. He had not counted the cost
      3. He did not know to whom He was talking

III. Jesus’ Authority over Nature
    A. Jesus gave command to cross to the other side (v. 18)
    B. The terrible storm & the fear of the disciples (vs. 24-25)
    C. Jesus’ Rebuke (v. 26)
Question One:
In Matthew 8:14-15, Jesus’ touch brought healing to Peter’s mother-in-law from the fever. But a further miracle was also evident.
★ Can you describe the further miracle in these verses?

Question Two:
Usually when a fever leaves, one’s body is weak for some time, but that was not true here. The woman was also given strength to get up from her bed and immediately be involved in work.
★ Discuss this question with others. When Jesus heals, is it complete or incomplete?

Question Three:
In Matthew 8:22, Jesus said to one of His disciples, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”
★ Describe what you think this statement means.

Question Four:
Jesus’ response, Let the dead bury their own dead, showed that following Him carried with it the highest priority. Jesus said that, the physically dead could be cared for by those who are spiritually dead.
★ Describe the difference between being physically dead verses being spiritually dead.

Question Five:
Matthew verse 8:23-27, shows us another realm over which Jesus has authority - in nature. Jesus demonstrated that he could calm a furious storm and bring nature into perfect peace.
★ What are storms in your life and can Jesus calm your storms?
Life Group Questions for
July 29, 2012
“Good News” Series
Message = Who is That Guy?

Ice Breaker: Tell about a huge storm you lived through.

Read Matthew 8:14-27.

1. Tell what you observe about this passage.

2. When you read about the scribe and the other man who wanted to follow Jesus, what questions arise in your mind?

3. Why do you think Matthew included these two little stories about the men who wanted to follow Jesus?

4. What do you think Jesus wanted to teach His disciples when He told them they were of little faith after the storm ended?

5. What storms have you endured lately? How did your character and faith endure the storm?

6. When Jesus tells us to do something, there is almost a guarantee that there will be opposition. Is this your experience? Please explain.

7. What causes you the most fear in life?

8. Pray for one another.

Table Talk
Elementary
Matthew 8:14–27

Day 1 - Read the passage of Matthew 8:14-27. Take a piece of 8 1/2 x 11 paper and draw a picture which represents “peace”. Be sure to add color to the picture. Use this as a springboard to discuss the theme of “peace”. (Don’t forget to display the picture on the fridge!)

Day 2 - Have you ever been afraid - afraid of something you could not control? Perhaps you have come across a big dog that was barking at you, or even chased you? Maybe you have experienced a power outage, when the electricity would not work and all the lights went out. Perhaps a mean bully who was bigger than you has scared you. There are a lot of circumstances in life we have no control over. We cannot change or fix these circumstances. They come upon us suddenly and we have no real power over them. They make us feel helpless. One time Jesus’ disciples had a situation like that. (Matthew 8:23-27.) From the day 1 Bible reading, ask your child to retell the story in his/her own words.

Day 3 - Have you ever had a situation in your life that seemed to be completely out of control? You may have felt like nothing the whole world could help you. That is how the disciples were feeling. We might have problems in our lives that seem like huge storms to us. We might even panic, but Jesus never panics over a situation. Do you think that we can be peaceful like Jesus in our situations? We should never be afraid when Jesus is with us! Often we think of peace as something quiet (like the sound of the ocean or water trickling...or a baby sleeping...or a rainbow), however, peace experienced in the midst of the storm can be an even more powerful example of peace. Next time you experience a difficult situation (rest assured, you WILL), remember that Jesus is right there with you and will give you peace! Thank Jesus for peace!
**Preschool & Nursery:**

Read Matthew 8:23-27 to your child and tell them about the miracles Jesus performed. Talk with your child about trusting Jesus to take care of us.

- “Where were Jesus and the disciples?”
- “Why were the disciples afraid?”
- “What did Jesus do?”
- “What did Jesus say?”
- “Why did the wind and storm obey Jesus?”

**Learning Points:** See how we can ask Jesus for help when we are scared. Share how Jesus is powerful. He made a storm stop!

**Bible Verse:** Do not be afraid. John 14:27

**Prayer:** God, You are so great. Thank you for sending Jesus to forgive our sins. The next time we feel sad, let us remember to come to You, for You will help us, too. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**Activity:** When your children are taking a bath this week or playing in a pool, use a toy boat and demonstrate the storm in the water. Tell them the story of Jesus calming the sea again. If you have figurines you could use one to represent Jesus. Talk about how Jesus can do anything and we should seek His help.

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**Personal Devotion Pages**

The following pages are designed to help you enjoy a regular time alone with God. We have divided up the curriculum to help us grow wherever we are at in our relationship with God and in our knowledge of His Kingdom.

**LEVELS:** Since we are a Colorado church, we use skiing imagery to communicate the different levels of intensity and time involved in relating to God.

**BEGINNER:** If you are new in your relationship with God, we encourage you to try the exercises under this symbol:

**INTERMEDIATE:** If you have walked with God for some time and would like a little more challenge and more time involvement, try the exercises under this symbol:

**ADVANCED:** These exercises are for people who have walked with God for some time and display maturity in their relationship with Him.

These exercises provide a practical way to encounter God and His truth on a regular basis. There are no rules here. Please don’t hurry through the process. Slow meditation and memorization seems to soak in better than cramming.

Enjoy!
Day One

1. Take some time to praise the Lord for who He is and enjoy thanking Him for what He has done in your life lately.

2. Read Matthew 8: 14-27. Write down in this space how you see Jesus’ authority revealed in this passage.


- Memorize I John 4: 18
- Memorize I John 4: 18-20
- Memorize I John 4: 18-21

Day Five

Matthew chapter 8 follows the Sermon on the Mount to show that Jesus not only taught with authority, He walked in authority over sickness, demons, death, nature, and all difficulties! As I add that up on my adding machine, I come up with this: Jesus walked in authority over everything!

Why is this important for the average disciple to know? Jesus sums it up in this statement, Why did you fear? Fear is always a result of faithlessness. It is what arises when I don’t really believe Jesus has all authority and when I don’t really believe Jesus is truly with me.

When I understand that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus, and Jesus was given to His church (Ephesians 1), then I walk with confidence, not fear. When sickness, demons, and storms come, I have the King of the universe on my side, standing in all His authority to heal, deliver, and provide.

Frankly, even if it looks like Satan wins and I end up dying - He still gets the victory, because I get to go to eternal bliss!

Matthew’s message to Jesus’ disciples is this: I never need to worry and I never need to fear! In Paul’s words, If God is for us, who can be against us (Romans 8: 31)? Jesus’ disciples are confident to the point of death. He is WITH me! He is FOR me. WHY SHOULD I BE AFRAID!

Father, cement deep into my heart the truth of Your love and authority in my life!

Memorize I John 4: 18-21
Day Five

1. Take some time to praise the Lord for who He is and enjoy thanking Him for what He has done in your life lately.

2. Meditate again on Matthew 8: 14-27. Since Christ lives in you, what kind of authority do you have?

3. Ask the Lord to begin showing you how to walk in His authority on a daily basis. Ask Him to show you how this authority is activated.

4. Finish your Bible memorization today.

Day One

When Jesus came into Peter’s home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him.

~Matthew 8:14, 15, NAS95

Matthew continues to eloquently show his audience the profound authority of Jesus of Nazareth. Chapters 5-7 show Jesus’ supreme authority in his teaching. Now in chapter 8, Jesus shows Jesus’ authority in His actions. He has completely cleansed a leper and healed the centurion’s slave without even being near to him.

The authority Jesus walks in on a daily basis is revealed in Matthew’s narrative. He shows us that Jesus is so amazing that He can heal by touching lepers! He heals people without even having to be near to them! Now He touches Peter’s mother-in-law and her fever leaves her.

Luke’s description of the healing is even more edgy. In Luke 4: 38-39, Jesus rebukes the fever as He touches her. Okay, weird, but cool. Have you ever heard of someone talking to a fever? Later in the chapter, He will talk to the wind and sea and tell it to be still - and all obey His voice. Okay, weird, but amazing!

What I find interesting about Jesus’ healing power is that I can’t find a place where He prays for healing. Jesus tells them to be well, or He touches them, but never have I seen a place where He prays for healing. Of course, later in the Epistles of the New Testament, Jesus’ followers will pray for the sick.

But Jesus’ authority is unquestionable. What do you need Jesus to do today? Approach Him boldly and receive!
Day Two

1. Take some time to praise the Lord for who He is and enjoy thanking Him for what He has done in your life lately.

2. Read Matthew 8: 14-27 slowly again today.

3. Write down the storms you are encountering right now. What do you think you can apply from this passage to your storms?

4. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what Jesus was trying to get at when He spoke to the two men in Matthew 8: 19-22.

5. Continue memorizing and meditating on the scriptures for this week.

Day Four

Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea.

~Matthew 8:18, NAS95

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.

~Matthew 8:26, NAS95

Jesus again shows His profound authority over all of creation in the story of the storm. Let’s focus on that statement we see in verse 18: He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea. Jesus, as Lord of all creation, has issued an order and has a goal - the other side of the sea.

Then all hell broke loose. A storm came up and scared even the veteran fishermen out of their sandals! Jesus, so absolutely confident in the Father’s provision and protection, sleeps through this life threatening storm. He’s a picture of No worries!

They wake Jesus from His sound slumber and cry out, Save us, Lord; we are perishing! The storm has become their focus, not the words of Jesus. Fear grips us every time we lose focus on the main thing. Then Jesus rebukes them. He rebukes them! You of little faith! Jesus could not understand their fear! In His mind, if HE is with you, why be afraid?

From Jesus’ point of view, we should capsulize this story like this: The God of the universe has given command to go to the other side of the sea. That is where we are going. If a storm comes up trying to keep us from doing God’s command, we should use His authority and tell the storm to stop! Oh, is that all?

Father, help me stand on your word, no matter what obstacles come my way!
Day Two

When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: “HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES.”

~Matthew 8:16, 17, NAS95

We now see Jesus’ authority in His dealings with none other than demonic spirits. This is a subject of much interest today. Our culture thinks that people don’t deal with spirits anymore as this was a primitive culture’s view of the cause of many maladies. Now that we are a sophisticated society, we don’t believe in demonic problems anymore. That’s where pop culture collides with culture. Pop culture loves the subject of angels and demons, and the sensationalizing of such spirits in the movies.

Instead of sensationalizing demons, Jesus uses ONE WORD to cast them out of their victims. In the movies, the demons make people float, spin heads around, spew projectile vomit, and climb walls like geckos. Jesus just tells them to be quiet. It’s all in a day’s work for Him.

In the Greek language, the Gospel writers never use the term, demon-possessed. The term they use is demonized. That means people were influenced by demons at some level or another. This tends to silence the discussion about whether a Christian can be demon-possessed or not (the Bible is silent about that issue anyway, so we cannot answer definitively, yes or no). I tend to think believers and non-believers certainly can be influenced by demons at one level or another. To what degree a Christian can be influenced by demonic spirits, I am not certain.

But before you get scared and worried about levitating and emitting strange voices, remember - Jesus cast them out with a word. Demons are not something to fear, they are something to be evicted.

Day Four

1. Take some time to praise the Lord for who He is and enjoy thanking Him for what He has done in your life lately.

2. Take more time today to pray for healing for yourself.

3. Go back to your list of near and dear folks who need healing and pray for them again today. Ask God for special insight as you pray.

4. Continue meditating on and memorizing the scripture for this week.
Day Three

1. Take some time to praise the Lord for who He is and enjoy thanking Him for what He has done in your life lately.

2. Write down in this space any healing you need, be it physical, mental, spiritual, financial, or emotional.

3. Take time to write down some people near and dear to you who need healing. Write down their names and pray for them today.

4. Continue meditating on and memorizing the scripture for this week.

Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea.

~Matthew 8:18, NAS95

I wonder if Jesus ever read any books on church growth. It seems to me that when you get a large crowd coming around, you shouldn’t ditch them.

Jesus never seemed to be enamored by crowds like we are. We determine success by the size of the crowd. Jesus determined success by daily accomplishing what His Father directed Him to do... Period.

As a result, whenever crowds came around, he typically showed great compassion for them. He healed them, cast out demons, and taught them in a veiled form - or He avoided them. They never seemed to be the pinnacle of success for Him, but rather a necessary bi-product of doing what His Father directed Him to do.

This reveals Jesus’ heart. He only wanted to please His Father and never-ever-dever sought to please people. We can all learn much from the Nazarene.

As He departed, He had two men approach Him; one was too fast to follow and the other was too slow. Jesus immediately saw their hearts and confronted their motives. The first had no clue what he was committing himself to do, and Jesus immediately helped the potential disciple understand that there was no personal gain in following Him. The second did not understand the significance of the moment. The God of the universe was available to follow for the first and only time in human history, and the man was focused on a funeral for his dad. In these two examples, Matthew tells us that following Jesus should not be considered lightly. It’s an all or nothing deal.

Jesus, I choose to count the cost of following You, today.