

# Matthew 8 | Made Clean By Faith

## I. Intro

A. Following Jesus is great Sunday, hard on Wednesday

1. Sermon on the mount done, how will it work?

## II. God's Desire To Cleanse

### A. Encountering A Dirty World

1. (v. 1-2: *When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup> A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."*)

a) New section in Matthew, kingdom brought to people

(1) First encounter - a leper / outcast, scary sight

(a) How does God's power meet a broken world?

### B. Jesus Meets Us There

1. (v. 3-4: *Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. <sup>4</sup> 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."*)

a) Touched the man - made contact

(1) **Dirty normally beats clean.** Jesus clean > dirty

b) What broken thing needs to be set right for you?

(1) God's is willing, even if timing/answer are different

## III. Cleansing Comes To The Faithful

### A. Faith = Trust

1. (v. 5-9: *When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. <sup>6</sup> "Lord," he*

said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly." <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?" <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.")

a) Centurion is a great example

(1) Humble about himself - not worthy to have Jesus

(a) *James 4:6 "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."*

i) Should never feel "deserving" of God's grace

(2) Confident in Jesus - trusts His authority

(a) *Didn't give theology, just trust*

i) *God wants a personal walk with Him*

## B. Faith Is The Criteria

1. (v. 10-13: When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.)

a) This is true faith. Complete trust!

(1) Faith is the criteria to be in or out of God's family

(a) *Romans 9-11 - branches removed/grafted in*

b) *This means this can also be said of you!*

### C. He Offers This To All

1. *(v. 14-17: When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. <sup>15</sup> He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.")*

a) Quote from Isaiah 53, chapter that points to cross

(1) Jesus brings physical but mainly spiritual healing

## IV. The Cost Of Faith

### A. Not For Earthly Gain

1. *(v. 18-20: When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. <sup>19</sup> Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>20</sup> Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.")*

a) Following Jesus isn't about material gain

(1) *Hebrews 11:37-38 "They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground."*

b) Easy to feel God should make things work out now

## B. Giving Up Other Priorities

1. (v. 21-22: *Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”* <sup>22</sup> *But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”*)
  - a) Sounds harsh, burial included a bigger process
    - (1) Up to one year, set up family, possible not dead yet
  - b) The real statement - all other priorities are second
    - (1) *Family, career, relationships, hobbies, etc.*

## V. The Power Of Faith

### A. Power Over Storms

1. (v. 23-27: *Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.* <sup>24</sup> *Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.* <sup>25</sup> *The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”* <sup>26</sup> *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.* <sup>27</sup> *The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”*)
  - a) Disciples saw other miracles, good reason for faith
    - (1) So like us - *miracles out there, fears for ourselves*
      - (a) God is with us personally!

### B. Power Over The Spiritual Realm

1. (v. 28-32: *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.* <sup>29</sup> *“What do you want*

*with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”<sup>30</sup> Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding.<sup>31</sup> The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.”<sup>32</sup> 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.)*

- a) God is the greatest spiritual power
  - (1) Isaiah 14 - see Satan and pity him
- b) **With Jesus, we connect to the greatest power**
  - (1) Other spirits are real, but all bow to Jesus

### C. Some Can't Give Up Power

- 1. *(v. 33-34: Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.<sup>34</sup> Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.)*
  - a) This was great! Why ask Jesus to leave?
    - (1) Pigs were their income. Jesus got in the way.
  - b) God's power is available, we must yield to it

## **VI. Conclusion**

- A. Thought through “believing”, “yielding”, “surrendering”, but do you TRUST God
  - 1. Trust that God's work is best even when it's not what you want
    - a) The healing we need is found through practical, everyday faith