

## **Matthew 8:1-12:21**

### **Jesus at work...**

We started Matthew last year, noticing the way in which Matthew's account begins as crucial—the bloke who Matthew is describing is 'the Son of David, the Son of Abraham' (1:1). This man Jesus is the One that will rule the world, as the One who will reveal God so that sin is rolled back. The great promise(s) of God to restore his broken world lie in this man.

For Jewish readers (at that time), this is an important moment. Moreover, Matthew placed grace available to all at the heart of Jesus and his work (remember the genealogy?). For a non-Jewish reader (at that time), there is an important welcome in the very same beginning—this stuff is for all people!

As Jesus is born, revealed, affirmed, and begins his work, we were continually reminded that all of his work is fulfilling what God had promised. When we came to the first great teaching section in Matthew (the Sermon on the Mount), we heard what it meant to be a citizen in this new kingdom that Jesus was establishing.

As Matthew summarised the work of Jesus, he stated very clearly (in 4:23) that Jesus was about teaching, preaching and healing. We have just finished a section of remarkable teaching. Now, as we move into Matthew 8:1-12:21, we have a section of healing (interspersed with statements about following Jesus), a section of reactions, and another section of teaching.

Let's spend some time watching, and learning from, Jesus at work...

## Study 1: Matthew 8:1-17

1. Read Matthew 8:1-17.

**All three miracles here concern people unlikely, to the Jew at the time—a leper, a Roman centurion, a woman. By the end of this section, we cannot avoid seeing the compassion and ‘whole-world-focus’ of Jesus.**

2. Look at Matthew 8:1-4.  
Where is Jesus? (cf. 4:23)

Who is following him? Who approaches him? (vs.1-2)

What does the leper desire? What is interesting about the way he phrases his request? (vs.2)

What does Jesus do and say? What is wonderful about this? And what happens? (vs.3)

What does Jesus command the man to do? (vs.4; cf. Lev.14:10, 21-22)

Why do you think Jesus commands this?

3. Look at Matthew 8:5-13.  
Who approaches Jesus, and what is his request? (vs.5-6)

How does Jesus respond? And what is the corresponding answer? (vs.7-9)

How does Jesus respond? Who does he speak to? And what is his warning, and welcome? (vs.10-12)

What is the outcome of this interaction? What does this confirm about Jesus? (vs.13)

4. Look at Matthew 8:14-17.  
Where does Jesus go? What does he see, and do? (vs.14-15)

What happens that night? (vs.16)

How does Matthew understand this? (vs.17)

Read Isaiah 53:1-9...

What is Isaiah speaking of? And what link do you think Matthew is establishing for his readers?

5. What do these verses display clearly about Jesus, and why he has come?

What is the comfort, warning, and possible misinterpretation of this?

**Pray, giving thanks that Jesus displays his healing power...**

## Study 2: Matthew 8:18-22

1. Read Matthew 8:18-22.

**There are a lot of people following Jesus around, as well as the disciples. Sprinkled throughout this section, as Jesus continues to reveal his nature, are little sections which confront the nature of following Jesus. This is one of those...**

2. Speculate, from the context, why Jesus might want to be escaping the press of the large crowds... (vs.18)
3. A scribe—a lawyer—approaches Jesus. What is his statement? (vs.19)
4. How does Jesus respond? (vs.20)

This is the first use of 'Son of man' in Matthew's account. Why might Jesus use it here?

5. A disciple (did you see that?) approaches Jesus with a request. What is it? (vs.21)
6. How does Jesus respond? (vs.22)
7. What is Jesus making clear about his expectations of his followers?

How have we already seen this in the Sermon on the Mount?

8. In what way is Jesus being confrontational here?

We are not told how either of these men responded, and speculation is pointless. How do you respond?

**Pray, giving thanks that Jesus gave up everything for us, not to manipulate or guilt us into giving him everything but to save all of us.**

## Study 3: Matthew 8:23-9:8

1. Read Matthew 8:23-9:8.

**Again, Matthew gives us a set of three miracles. They all display the enormity of the power and authority of Jesus.**

2. Look at 8:23-27.

The decision to move across the 'sea' is put into effect (vs.18). And the contrast in 'following' is emphasised (vs.19 against vs.23). But what emerges as they cross, and how is Jesus going? (vs.24)

How do the disciples go? (vs.25)

How does Jesus respond? (vs.26)

Jesus has already used this phrase of the disciples (6:30). What is the issue?

What is surprising about the term used for Jesus' speaking to the weather— 'rebuked'?

3. Look at 8:28-34.

When they reach the other side of the sea, where are they, who do they meet, and what is the response? (vs.28-29)

How does Jesus deal with the demoniacs? (vs.30-32)

Compare Jesus' command in Matthew 8:32 with his command in Matthew 4:10—are there any similarities?

How is Jesus' action received? (vs.33-34)

4. Look at 9:1-8.  
Where is Jesus now? (vs.1)

What is expected in verse 2, and what does Jesus deliver?

What is the reaction of the religious scribes? (vs.3)

How does Jesus respond? And what does he reveal? (vs.4-6)

What is the outcome? (vs.7-8)

Compare what happens here with the statement in Matthew 1:21...

5. Each of these three miracles reveals something of Jesus power and authority and identity—what is revealed?

Notice that each episode also reveals a level of opposition—what is revealed?

**Pray, acknowledging both the revelation of Jesus and the opposition.**

## Study 4: Matthew 9:9-17

1. Read Matthew 9:9-17.

**Just as he has already done, Matthew follows three miracles with a small section on what it means to follow Jesus. This time, Matthew is very personal as he reveals his calling...**

2. Jesus goes on. Who does he meet? What does Jesus say? What happens? (vs.9)
3. Who does Jesus spend the evening eating with? What reaction does this cause amongst the religious authorities? (vs.10-11)

Is there any similarity to 8:10-12?

4. The reaction is relayed to Jesus. What is his response—what has he come to do? (vs.12)

How does this tie in with 8:14-17?

What does he command the religious authorities to do? (vs.13)

What light does Hosea 6:4-6 shed on this?

5. What do these verses reveal about following Jesus?



6. In verse 14, John's disciples come with a question—what is it?

Discuss what 'fasting' is amongst your group...

7. How does Jesus respond? What does he say about the times they are in, what he has come to do, and where he fits?
8. What do these verses reveal about following Jesus?

**Pray, giving thanks that Jesus came for the sick...**

## Study 5: Matthew 9:18-34

1. Read Matthew 9:18-34

**This finishes the section on miracles—another three episodes, with the first two episodes having two healings each. Matthew has focused his relaying of miracles in the first part of his Gospel, and there are far fewer miracles after this. The point is made: Jesus has remarkable authority and power (he can even raise the dead)!**

2. Look at verses 18-31.  
Who comes to Jesus, and what does he request? (vs.18-19)

Do you think that there is a contrast here with 8:5-12? Why/why not?

Who/what stops the journey? (vs.20-22)

What scene greets Jesus when he arrives at his destination?  
(vs.23)

How does Jesus respond? How does the crowd respond? What is the outcome? (vs.24-26)

3. Look at verses 27-31.  
Who follows Jesus, and what do they request? (vs.27)

What do you make of their title for Jesus?

What happens at 'the house'? (vs.28-30a)

How does Jesus finish this episode, and how does that turn out?  
(vs.30b-31)

4. Look at verses 32-34.  
Describe what happens, and the two reactions.
  
5. In each episode, there are reactions from the crowd, and others.  
What is your reaction to what you see of Jesus' power and authority?

How might this be understood/applied wrongly?

How do you think Matthew, and Jesus, are encouraging us to think about/apply, his exhibitions of power? (cf. Matt.1:1 and Gen.12:1-3)

**Pray, giving thanks for the rolling back of sin and its effects in this broken world as Jesus comes...**

## Study 6: Matthew 9:35-10:15

1. Read Matthew 9:35-10:15
2. Look at 9:35-38.  
How does this serve as a bookend for this section? (vs.35; cf. 4:23)

How does Jesus view those crowding him? (vs.36)

What observation does Jesus make to those who are his 'disciples'? (vs.37)

What command does Jesus give these 'disciples'? (vs.38)

3. Look at 10:1-15.  
How does 9:35 now serve as an introduction to this next section of Matthew—what does Jesus do in verses 1-4?

In verses 5-15, Jesus sends the Twelve off on their first mission trip. He gives them some limits in verses 5-6—what are they? How do they fit with how Matthew has focussed his biography of Jesus?

What is the message and action of this trip? (vs.7-8)

How does it mirror the ministry of Jesus? (cf. 4:17,23; 9:35)

What further 'travelling' instructions does Jesus give them in verses 9-10?

Jesus gives them detailed instructions on how to conduct their ministry in towns, and how to deal with the receptions that they will receive. What are they? And what is the significant warning here? (vs.11-15; cf. 8:12)

4. In general terms, what pattern of mission/ministry is Jesus establishing here?

**Pray, asking the Lord to provide workers to send out in the harvest...**

## Study 7: Matthew 10:16-42

1. Read Matthew 10:16-42.

**This is the second major section of teaching by Jesus that Matthew records. The focus here is on what it means to follow Jesus, being one of his disciples. This section has more of a tone connected with the end of the Gospel, as Jesus seems to expand the particular details of the work of the Twelve to wider social and historical circumstances.**

2. Look at verses 16-25.  
What does Jesus know is true as he sends out his disciples?  
(vs.16)

What is the advice he gives them? (vs.16-17)

What does he make clear, and what is his encouragement?  
(vs.18-20)

What picture does Jesus paint in verses 21-25? How does he explain what will happen to the disciples?

3. Look at verses 26-31.  
What is the reassurance, warning, encouragement and command in these verses?
4. Look at verses 32-39.  
Jesus speaks a clear warning in verses 32-33. What is it?

Jesus takes the opportunity to put his ministry in context—what is the context of Micah 7:6, and how does this explain what Jesus is talking about?

5. Look at verses 40-42.  
What is the encouragement, exhortation, that Jesus gives?
  
6. Looking back over all Jesus says here about being one of his disciples, as he gives commands to the Twelve, what strikes you, what stands out for you, and what might have to change in the way you think about life as one of Jesus' disciples?

**Pray, knowing that Jesus is in complete control of the events of his disciples' lives...**

## Study 8: Matthew 11:1-24

1. Read Matthew 11:1-24.

**Leon Morris describes this next section of Matthew's biography of Jesus as an outline of the reactions to Jesus.**

2. Look at verses 1-15.  
What is Jesus doing? (vs.1)

What does John do, and what does he ask? (vs.2-3)

How does Jesus answer/respond? (vs.4-6)

How is Jesus' response a purposeful reference to his own work?  
(cf. vs.1, 4:23, 9:35)

How is Jesus' response a reference to what God said would happen when the kingdom of God was established?  
(cf. Is.61:1-2)

Who does Jesus speak to next, and about whom? (vs.7)

What does Jesus challenge them to consider? (vs.7-8)

What does Jesus affirm about John the Baptist? What does he observe about the 'times'? And what does Jesus warn? (vs.9-15)



3. Look at verses 16-24.  
Jesus decides to take on the response of the people around him.  
What does he say to them? How does he expose them?  
(vs.16-19)

Jesus then pronounces a judgement—what is it, and why is it?  
(vs.20-24)

4. Looking back over these verses, what are the responses to Jesus that are outlined? Has much changed? Why/why not?

**Pray, acknowledging that Jesus brings division, and provokes reaction...**

## Study 9: Matthew 11:25-30

1. Read Matthew 11:25-30.
2. In verses 25-26, Jesus describes his teaching in the context of his relationship with his Father. How does he describe his teaching? Why is it like this?
3. In verse 27, Jesus paints a picture of his relationship with his Father—what do we learn?
4. In verses 28-30, Jesus makes an offer and offers revelation about himself and his purpose. What is his offer? And what are his revelations?

How does this tie to Genesis 2:1-3, and Genesis 3:8-24?

5. How does Genesis 12:1-3 and Matthew 1:1 help us understand these verses?

**Pray, giving thanks that in Jesus alone is true rest...**

## Study 10: Matthew 12:1-21

1. Matthew 12:1-21.
2. Look at verses 1-8.  
Where is Jesus, what is he doing, and what reaction does it provoke? (vs.1-2)

Jesus uses two examples to make his point—what are they?  
(vs.3-5; cf. 1 Sam.21:1-9)

What is Jesus' point? (vs.6)

What is Jesus' rebuke? (vs.7; cf. Hosea 6:6)

What is Jesus' conclusion? (vs.8)

3. Look at verses 9-14.  
Where is Jesus, and what does he face? (vs.9-10)

Jesus responds with a question and an observation—what are they? (vs.11-12)

What does Jesus do? What reaction does it provoke? (vs.13-14)

4. Look at verses 15-21.

What else does Jesus do/say to the crowds? (vs.16-17)

Why? (vs.18-21; cf. Is.42:1-9)

5. Look back at these reactions to Jesus—what are they?

6. What strikes you about Jesus deals with the reactions?

**Pray, giving thanks that Jesus stayed focused on his mission...**