



## Matthew

### Lesson 8

*In chapters 5-7 Matthew records the greatest and most extensive sermon Jesus ever preached that is documented in Scripture. Shorter teachings from that sermon are recorded at different times during Jesus' ministry, which means the principles He gave in the sermon were repeated in response to specific situations. Jesus begins His sermon with the Beatitudes and continues on with instruction on personal relationships, with warnings regarding sin and the deception of hypocrisy, and a description of the Kingdom of Heaven and those who will be a part of it. The conduct Jesus addressed identified the contrast between the way the world operates and the dangerous false*

*teachings of the religious leaders, to the selfless, others-oriented focus of the Kingdom of Heaven. The truth about who God is and how to worship and live for Him had been distorted and endangered by man's traditions. Outward appearance of righteousness, saying the right words, and doing things for the purpose of earning righteousness or simply looking righteous, had replaced dependence and faith in the goodness of God's law and His desire for a sincere and teachable heart.*

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5*

#### Read Chapter 8

1. *How do you think the crowd following Jesus reacted when the leper approached Jesus?*
2. *From Leviticus 14:1-32, summarize the offering the man was told to make. What was Jesus' purpose in having him do this?*



*A centurion was a non-commissioned officer in the Roman army commanding a "century" or group of approximately 80-100 men. Police duties were more their normal activities in that active warfare took place mostly on the outskirts of the empire.*

*~Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia*

3. *From the following verses, what can you assume were some of the responsibilities of a centurion? Matthew 27:54, Acts 21:30-32, Acts 22:24-26, Acts 23:17-24, Acts 24:22-23. In light of those normal responsibilities, how do the actions of the centurion in Matthew 8:8-10 and the centurion in Acts 10:1-35 seem unique?*
  
4. *What aspect of the centurion's faith amazed Jesus? How might the people have felt about His statement, "I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel"?*
  
5. *What point is Jesus making in vs. 11-12?*
  
6. *According to Luke 7:11-17, what significant event took place after His encounter with the centurion (Matthew 8:1-13) and healing Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14 and Luke 4:38)? What effect would this event undoubtedly have on Jesus' disciples?*
  
7. *Matthew quotes Isaiah 53:4 as an example of Jesus fulfilling Old Testament prophecy (v. 17). What other descriptions of the Messiah in Isaiah 53 did Jesus fulfill?*
  
8. *From Matthew 8:19-22 and Luke 9:57-62, and also Matthew 10:38 and Luke 9:23-24, what does Jesus say is required of those who would be His disciples or followers?*

9. *What insight do you gain about Jesus from vs. 28-34 regarding demon possession or demonic activity? How did the people who were watching respond?*



*...when you're talking about Scripture and demons, essentially, you're talking about the gospels and the book of Acts. Primarily there is no incident of a demon-possessed person in the entire Old Testament. There is an explosion of demon possession during the time of Christ and the apostles, and then in the epistles there is no reference to demon possession. Then there will be a greater explosion of demon possession as the apocalypse of Revelation tells us just prior to the return of Jesus Christ when, according to 2 Thessalonians 2, the restrainer is removed, and all hell breaks loose as all the demons affect their evil on the world of the Antichrist. But in the Old Testament and in the time of the epistles which define for us the church age, there's no discussion of demon possession. It really explodes on the scene when Jesus arrives.*

*~John MacArthur*

10. *How do 1 John 3:8 and James 2:19 agree with the above statement as well as the response of the demons to Jesus in Matthew 8:29 and Luke 4:34?*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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