

SCRIPTURE

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

CHAPTER 8

Mt 8:1. When he was come down from the mountain (or mountainside), great multitudes (or large crowds) followed him.

COMMENTARY

CHAPTER 8

Mt 8:1. In Mt 5:1, Jesus had gone up into the mountain.

It is believed that this mountain (or hill) was near Capernaum and overlooked the Sea of Galilee.

The events in Mt 5:1 to 8:1 took place app. 21 months into the ministry of Jesus.

The arrangement of the events in Matthew are not necessarily in order. Both Mark and Luke have a different order.

In the Scriptures, Jesus demonstrates His complete power over everything from diseases, demons, nature, and even death. He had total control over the weather.

He demonstrates He knew even the people's thoughts and the past and the future. He even demonstrated He could disappear.

He had the power to take people's sins upon Himself, but what a horrible price He paid to do that. Anyone that understands what Jesus did for them, so that they could be saved from the lake of fire and inherit eternal life, should be greatly humbled and broken. They should be so grateful that they would want to follow Him all the days of their life.

Jesus came down from the mountain. A very large number of people continued to follow Him.

Mt 8:5 begins where this left off.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:1.** When he was come down from the mountain (or mountainside), great multitudes (or large crowds) followed him.



(30 years plus 12 months)

Mt 8:2. And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped (or bowed down to) him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt (or are willing), thou canst (or can) make me clean.

Mt 8:3. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed (or he was cured of his leprosy).

Mt 8:4. And Jesus saith unto him, See (that)

Mt 8:2. This verse takes place approximately 12 months into the ministry of Jesus, which is 11 months before the previous Sermon on the Mount took place.

This verse continues during the same approximate time as Mt 4:25 took place.

A leper had come to worship Jesus. He may have fallen to his knees or bowed in worship. He was desperate, but he also believed that Jesus was the Messiah. People were afraid to come near a leper, as they believed they might also become leprous. No one dared to touch such a person. The leper was to cry out "Unclean, unclean." Often this disease was related to sin. A person with this disease might lose their fingers, lips, toes, or other parts of their bodies.

The leper worshiped Jesus and then said, If You are willing, You can make me clean, or You have the power to make me clean. Luke's Gospel indicates he was full of leprosy.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:2.** And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped (or bowed down to) him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt (or are willing), thou canst (or can) make me clean.

Mt 8:3. Jesus then put forth His hand. He touched the man, and as He did, He told him that He was willing. Then, instantly, the leprosy disappeared.

Jesus was pure. He is God. He could not be defiled.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:3.** And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed (or he was cured of his leprosy).

Mt 8:4. It may be said that the man had faith

thou tell no man (or no one); but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer (or present the gift (or offering) that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

to be healed.

Now the man is given a command by Jesus, Who is God in the flesh. His **obedience is about to be tested**.

Jesus gave him four commands to obey.

The first was: do not tell any person.

The second was: go your way.

The third was: show yourself to the priest.

The fourth was: offer the gift that Moses had commanded.

There are many that have faith in Jesus Christ in this current generation, but they LACK an obedient heart to do what God tells them to do.

When the Rapture comes, many people that profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior will be rejected, as they would not obey the Word of God. They trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins, but did not repent as commanded.

The angels in heaven that fell believed in God, but they rebelled and became disobedient when Satan tempted them.

Mark 1:44 reveals that the man did depart, but then he began to tell many people in a wide range of places (or abroad).

Then, as a result of the man's disobedience to God's Word, Jesus was no longer able to walk openly in the city. Jesus was then in various places in the desert.

The testimony to the priest may be called a sign to them.

Being healed of leprosy was almost unheard of, except Miriam, and would have been a sign to the religious establishment.

The priests would undoubtedly investigate the ancestry of Jesus to see if He was in line to be the king of Israel and to be the Messiah. He was.

Mt 8:5. And when Jesus was entered into **Capernaum**, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him (or asking Him for help),

Jesus became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that OBEY Him-ref Heb 5:9.

Regretfully, many churches speak of faith in Christ, but very few tell their people they are to repent, and overcome, and obey God's Word.

As has just been said in **Mt 8:4**. And Jesus saith unto him, See (that) thou tell no man (or no one); but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer (or present the gift (or offering) that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.



(30 years plus 21 months)

Mt 8:5. This verse is approximately 11 months later than Mt 8:4. It was about 21 months into the ministry of Jesus. It begins where Mt 8:1 leaves off.

Jesus then departed and entered into **Capernaum**, which was nearby.

(Capernaum)

Capernaum is located on the W-NW shore of the **Sea of Galilee**. It became home to Jesus during part of His ministry. The apostle Peter's house was also located there. During this time, it had a population of about 1500.

Capernaum was a fishing village and appears to date back to the 2nd century BC. It may have been abandoned in the 11th century.

Two synagogues that were long ago destroyed have been discovered there. One is above the other. The top one has now been partially rebuilt.

Many excavations have been conducted there, which can be seen by visitors; and it is a regular stop for sightseeing tours.

(Sea of Galilee)

This lake is also called the lake of Gennesaret

and also the sea of Tiberias.

There are several resorts located along the lake.

The Sea of Galilee is Israel's largest fresh water lake. It is approximately 13 miles long and 8 miles wide at its widest point. Its deepest point is 141 feet. The lake is app. 700 feet below sea level.

A boat ride is part of most sightseeing tours.

On the eastern side of the lake is the Golan Heights. A trip up the Golan Heights, overlooking the Sea of Galilee, is worth taking. The view is beautiful. Some tour groups do go up there, and rental cabins are available.

(Jordan River)

The northern part of the **Jordan River** empties into the **Sea of Galilee**. It begins in the area of Mt. Hermon and is fed from both springs and the melting snow from the mountain.

The **Sea of Galilee** empties into the southern part of the **Jordan River**. Nearby is a place where many tour groups stop, so people can be baptized in the river, if they wish.

The **Jordan River** then continues southward and ultimately empties into the Dead Sea. As it flows southward, the volume of water decreases greatly, so that what is left of the river, as it nears the Dead Sea, is very little.

Mt 8:5 continues. A centurion heard of Jesus. He came to Jesus in Capernaum pleading with Him. He used messengers that were elders of the Jews to communicate with Jesus-ref Lk 7:3.

A **centurion** was a Roman army officer that commanded a centuria, which was a group of 100 Roman soldiers. This was a 60th part of a Roman legion, which consisted of approximately 6000.

A centurion was often chosen because of their merit, consistency and a strong mind.

Mt 8:6. And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy (or is lying paralyzed), grievously tormented (or suffering great pain).

Mt 8:7. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

Mt 8:8. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy (or I don't deserve) that thou shouldest come under my roof: but (just) speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

Some have compared his rank with that of a high ranking sergeant.

It is evident that this Roman believed that Jesus could do miracles.

As it has been said in Mt 8:5. And when Jesus was entered into **Capernaum**, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him (or asking Him for help),

Mt 8:6. The centurion pleaded with Jesus, regarding his servant (or slave), who was at home and was greatly tormented with the palsy. It was evident that he cared about his servant very much.

The word "palsy" is used 11 times in the New Testament and signifies a disease that causes the body to be paralyzed. Uncontrollable body movements or tremors may also result. The joints can be affected.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:6.** And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy (or is lying paralyzed), grievously tormented (or suffering great pain).

Mt 8:7. Even though the Roman soldiers were not loved by the Jews, Jesus responded in love. He stated two things. First, He will come. Second, He would heal him.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:7.** And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

Mt 8:8. Then the centurion responded in a very humble way, not in the way a Roman officer would be expected to respond with authority, boldness, and pride.

First, he called Jesus "**Lord.**" This carries with it the meaning of authority, control or power over others, and a master chief or ruler. In this case, it may have carried with it the meaning of "Lord of all."

Mt 8:9. For I (too) am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant (or slave), Do this, and he doeth it.

Then he said, "**I am not worthy** that You should come under my roof." He seemed to be acknowledging that Jesus was of God, and that he was a sinful man. He may also have meant that he, being a Gentile, was not worthy, as the Jews looked down on the uncircumcised Gentiles.

Next, he spoke words indicating he not only believed Jesus was of God, but that He had the power to heal simply by speaking. He said, "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." He had great faith in Jesus.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:8**. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy (or I don't deserve) that thou shouldst come under my roof: but (just) speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

Mt 8:9. The centurion continued by indicating that, as a soldier, he was under the authority of certain people, and, in turn, he also had authority over others.

Thus, he understood giving and obeying orders.

He likened (or compared) this with the authority of Jesus.

He went on by saying how he would command those under him to do things, and they would do it.

The centurion understood the authority Jesus had to speak, and what He spoke would come to pass.

He must have recognized that the power of God had to be with Jesus in dealing with sickness and even death.

It appears even some of the apostles may not have understood this at that time, as the centurion did.

God's healing power was not only to the Jew,

but also to the Gentile. All the authority of Caesar would not be able to heal his servant. But he acknowledged that the power Jesus had, would be able to heal his servant.

The centurion understood the authority and order of command. This is something that few church members understand in this latter day generation.

It is written: Heb 13:17-Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Church members have virtually no understanding that their minister (if he is walking with God) must give an account to God at the Judgment for those under him.

The idea that a minister has authority over those in his flock is alien to most people today.

As is has been said in **Mt 8:9**. For I (too) am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant (or slave), Do this, and he doeth it.

Mt 8:10. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled (or was astonished), and said to them that followed (him), Verily I say unto you (or I tell you the truth), I have not found so **great** faith (or trust), no, not (with anyone) in Israel.

Mt 8:10. When Jesus had heard the words of the centurion, He was amazed, or surprised, or taken back, or astonished, or wondered.

He then told the crowd that was with Him, He had not found such great faith among anyone throughout all of Israel.

He classified the "faith" of the Gentile centurion even above that of His apostles. However, it was only in the area of faith that he so esteemed the centurion.

This also is an example that Jesus is not only sent to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles.

Most of the Jews had faith in the Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, and other such religious

Mt 8:11. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down (and take their places, or recline) at the feast (table) with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 8:12. But the children (or subjects) of the kingdom shall be cast (or thrown) out into outer darkness: (In that place) there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

leaders and in their religious system. They did not have faith in Jesus.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:10**. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled (or was astonished), and said to them that followed (him), Verily I say unto you (or I tell you the truth), I have not found so **great** faith (or trust), no, not (with anyone) in Israel.

Mt 8:11. Verses 11 and 12 go together. Jesus had just spoke about the great faith of a Gentile centurion. He had said that in all of Israel He had not found so great a faith. **Faith saves** a person. Faith also should produce **obedience** and a **humble spirit**.

Now in v. 11, Jesus tells us that many people shall come from both the east and west of Israel. They shall be with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Many of these will be Gentiles. He is showing He came to save both Jews and Gentiles, and even those from far away.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:11**. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down (and take their places, or recline) at the feast (table) with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 8:12. This was contrary to the teachings of the religious establishment.

Then Jesus reveals that the children of the kingdom, which are the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, shall perish for eternity. These shall cry and gnash their teeth for ever and ever in torment.

When a person dies, they shall either go to be with Jesus, or a place called hell. Then after the time of the Millennium, they shall come forth from hell to be judged at the Great White Throne, and then cast into the lake of fire forever and ever.

If only people would humble themselves and awake out of their delusional, unbiblical, and unsubstantiated thinking. Hell is getting more people by the second. Are you next?

It has been calculated and estimated that worldwide, (plus or minus) 18,315 people may die each second. Of these, only a very small amount will be with Jesus.

The Centurion, a Gentile, came forth. It was revealed that his faith exceeded that of those in Israel. What a lesson this was to those of Israel.

Israel today is still in unbelief. Some are religious, but they do not recognize Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

Israel's Jewish population is in the area of 6 million.

In the U.S., the number is estimated at 5.7 to 6.8 million.

In the world, the estimate is 15 million.

Of these, only a very few are Messianic Jews at this time (or Jews that believe that Jesus is come in the flesh), but their ranks are growing.

The Jews were religious, but lost.

Today Israel is a very secular nation, and there is much homosexuality. Yet, they are a very generous people. Should a person fall down in the street in New York, many would ignore him. In Israel, there might be several people immediately to help him up.

However, this is going to change. During the Tribulation period, one-third of Israel will come to trust in Jesus, following God's destruction of the Russians and Arabs that invade Israel. Five-sixths of the Russian army will be killed, as Jesus comes to Israel's rescue.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:12**. But the children (or subjects) of the kingdom shall be cast (or thrown) out into outer darkness: (In that place) there shall be weeping and gnashing of

Mt 8:13. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and (just) as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame (or very same) hour.

Mt 8:14. And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother (or saw Peter's mother-in-law) laid (or lying in bed), and sick of a fever.

teeth.

Mt 8:13. Jesus told the centurion to depart. He told him that as he believed, it would be done.

As a result, his servant was healed in the same hour.

Few in this generation have this kind of faith.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:13**. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and (just) as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame (or very same) hour.



(30 years + 10 months)

Mt 8:14. The time period, regarding verses 14 to 17, is 10 months into the ministry of Jesus.

Note the information regarding Capernaum under Mt 8:5.

Today Capernaum is mainly a sightseeing attraction on the Sea of Galilee. Excavations have been going on there for some time. A fair part of the ancient city can now be seen. A synagogue has been excavated that sits upon one that appears to date to the time of Jesus.

However, regarding excavations, falsehood is sometimes present, as certain denominations may come forth with unproven claims that a certain excavated house belonged to Peter, and so forth.

Capernaum and Peter's home became the center of the ministry of Jesus.

Note that Peter had a house and a **wife**. He was married, contrary to what the Roman Catholic Church teaches.

Peter's mother in law was also there, but was sick with a fever. Jesus entered and saw this.

Mt 8:15. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose (or got up), and ministered unto them.

Mt 8:16. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick (or ill):

Mt 8:17. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias (or Isaiah) the prophet, saying, (He) Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses (or carried away our diseases).

Mt 8:18. Now when Jesus saw great

As it has been said in **Mt 8:14.** And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother (or saw Peter's mother-in-law) laid (or lying in bed), and sick of a fever.

Mt 8:15. Jesus touched her hand, and the fever left her immediately. No recovery time was needed, as she apparently regained her strength immediately. She then went about attending to their needs.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:15.** And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose (or got up), and ministered unto them.

Mt 8:16. By this time, the reputation of Jesus had already reached far and wide.

As a result, people brought many that had devils in them. Jesus cast out the evil spirits and healed all the sick by speaking His Word.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:16.** When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick (or ill):

Mt 8:17. This saying is located in Isa 53:4.

It is written: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows (or pains): yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. Both Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sickness shall be fully fulfilled at a later time.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:17.** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias (or Isaiah) the prophet, saying, (He) Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses (or carried away our diseases).



(30 years + 21 months)

Mt 8:18. A great number of people followed

multitudes (or crowd) about him, he gave commandment (or orders) to depart unto the other side (of the lake).

Mt 8:19. And a certain scribe (or teacher of the law) came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever (or wherever) thou goest.

Mt 8:20. And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not (or has no) where to lay his head.

Jesus. He found ways to get away from the continuous crowds of people, by getting into a boat and crossing the Sea of Galilee.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:18**. Now when Jesus saw great multitudes (or crowd) about him, he gave commandment (or orders) to depart unto the other side (of the lake).

(30 years + 36 months)

Mt 8:19. A scribe was a person that made handwritten copies of the Hebrew Scriptures. He could also be a Jewish record keeper. They were considered to be theologians. Some were very hostile toward Jesus.

The scribe, in Mt 8:19, said to Jesus that he would follow Him anywhere. He apparently had seen some of the miracles.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:19**. And a certain scribe (or teacher of the law) came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever (or wherever) thou goest.

Mt 8:20. In response to what the scribe said, Jesus basically told him that even animals have a place to stay; but that He, the Son of man, had no certain dwelling place in this world.

This is also a message to all that follow Jesus. One may never know when or where Jesus will lead him. We should set our minds on things above, not on earthly things-ref Col 3:2.

We should throw off everything that hinders, and the sin that so easily entangles, and run with patience the race that is set before us, with our eyes fixed on Jesus-ref Heb 12:1, 2.

Some missionaries can personally identify with this.

We are to be as strangers and pilgrims on the earth, longing for a better country—a heavenly one-ref Heb 11:13, 16.

Mt 8:21. And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer (or let) me first to go and bury my father.

To follow Jesus, one needs to give up everything, as it is said, "I surrender all." The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, the pleasures of this life, and the lusts of other things swallow up most.

The term "**Son of man**" is used approximately 83 times in the Gospels by Jesus. It appears to be a reference to Christ's humanity. It can also refer to His everlasting glory in other verses.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:20**. And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not (or has no) where to lay his head.

Mt 8:21. So the scribe said he would follow Jesus, but another of his disciples (not an apostle) told Jesus he wished to first do something else. What he wanted to do was to go and **bury his father** that may have been dying or just died.

It may be said let the spiritually dead go and bury their spiritually dead.

What he said may also relate to the idea he would receive an inheritance. This may have been more important to him than following Jesus.

This may sound like a very good **excuse** for delaying to follow Jesus for some, but it was wrong. When Jesus calls, one is to follow, right now, but few do. One never knows if their life will end tomorrow.

The inheritance Jesus wants to give us is eternal life.

Multitudes of professing Christians have what seems like excellent excuses or reasons to delay, when Jesus asks them to go here or there, or to do this or do that. Satan is a master at putting such thoughts into a person's mind. Life is a test. Regretfully, only a very few recognize this fact. Few recognize they are

Mt 8:22. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their (own) dead.

being proved or tested to see how they will respond.

The true test of all tests is would you die for Christ? Few would. A person will not die for Christ, unless they have died to themselves first.

Many are called to become missionaries for Christ, but their family, their job, or countless other things are more important to them. Their faith fails. Many have faith enough to confess Jesus, but not enough trust to follow Him wheresoever He tells them to go.

They are not ready to meet Christ.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:21**. And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer (or let) me first to go and bury my father.

Mt 8:22. The disciple had asked Jesus to let him go and bury his father first. The answer of Jesus was "No". Jesus told him to let the dead bury their dead. Let the spiritually dead bury bury their own dead.

In other words, let those that perish bury their dead. If you are going to follow Jesus, let absolutely nothing stop you. Make no excuses. Excuses are for those that are like a wave or are unrepentant.

To follow Jesus is to repent and make a total, uncompromising commitment of love, obedience, and trust to Him and His Word.

Few understand in their heart Who Jesus really is. He is God, Who is come in the flesh.

For by Him and for Him were all things created. The very life of each person is totally in His hands.

Yet foolish people esteem the things that He created to be more important than He that created them.

Mt 8:23. And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

Mt 8:24. And, behold, (without warning) there arose a great tempest (or furious storm) in the sea (or lake), insomuch that the ship (or boat) was covered with the waves: (the waves swept over the boat) but he (Jesus) was asleep.

Burying their dead can represent any obstacle that hinders a person from following Jesus.

Following Jesus means following and obeying the Gospel. It is doing the will of God in all matters.

Following Jesus means hearing and reading the Gospel.

A person that partakes of the Bible a few minutes a day, it is unlikely he is following Jesus. Following Jesus is not a matter of a few minutes a day. It is not part time. It is a total surrender. Jesus said, "Come follow Me." Will you do it?

As it has been said in **Mt 8:22**. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their (own) dead.



(30 years + 24 months)

Mt 8:23. Jesus entered into a boat. The disciples did not question what He was doing. They did not contend with Him. This boat may not have been theirs.

They followed Him, as all that are saved through faith are to do.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:23**. And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

Mt 8:24. The **Sea of Galilee** has hills on three sides. The sea is 33 miles in circumference. It is 8 miles wide, 13 miles long, with a maximum depth of 157 feet. It is about 690 feet below sea level.

The Sea of Galilee is fed by the northern Jordan River, which comes from Mt. Hermon, and the sea slowly empties into the southern part of the Jordan that flows to the Dead Sea.

Mt 8:25. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish, (or we are perishing) (or we are going to drown).

On the northwestern side (or side opposite the Golan Heights), there is an opening or pass in the hills near Mt. Arbel. The winds sometimes comes swooping down upon the lake from there. The winds usually come during the warmer times of the year.

When the enemies of Israel occupied the Golan Heights above the lake, they had a large, high-powered machine gun there in which they used to shoot the Jewish people. That gun is still there for people to see.

A great storm arose as Jesus and His disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

The boat was being covered with the waves. Meanwhile, Jesus was asleep. The noise of the storm and the boat being tossed in the storm did not cause Jesus to awaken.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:24**. And, behold, (without warning) there arose a great tempest (or furious storm) in the sea (or lake), insomuch that the ship (or boat) was covered with the waves: (the waves swept over the boat) but he (Jesus) was asleep.

Mt 8:25. If you call upon the Lord in repentance, He will save you.

The disciples were afraid. They came to Jesus and woke Him up. Their fear revealed their lack of faith. Because the noise of the storm would have been loud, they would have spoke with a loud voice, saying, "Lord, save us: we perish!"

So often man believes he does need God. But when some things happen or when a person is dying, and there is no hope, that attitude often changes. Nearly all die and perish to hell, but did you ever hear a priest or minister tell the truth of such a person, and say he is now in hell? The vast majority perish for eternity. Only a few, a very few go to be with Christ.

Mt 8:26. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful (or so afraid), O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm (or it became perfectly calm).

Mt 8:27. But the men marvelled (or were amazed), saying, What manner (or what kind) of man is this, that even the winds and the sea (or waves) obey him!

Man's problem is getting him to admit from the heart that he needs Christ.

Many say a sinner's prayer, but there is no repentance.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:25**. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish, (or we are perishing) (or we are going to drown).

Mt 8:26. When Jesus awoke, the first thing He seems to have said was a question.

He asked them why were they so afraid, or why are you so easily frightened, or why do you have faint hearts?

Then He answered His own question with His next statement. He told them, **O ye of little faith.**

When there is a lack of Bible reading, there is a lack of faith. When there is a lack of faith, there can be fear that overcomes a person. Regarding a lack of faith, it is written: WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD-Heb 11:6.

Then Jesus rose up and rebuked, or ordered, or reprovved, the winds and the sea. Then there followed a great calm. When you are fearful, does it reflect your faith is small?

As it has been said in **Mt 8:26**. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful (or so afraid), O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm (or it became perfectly calm).

Mt 8:27. Then the disciples were astonished. They could barely believe what had just happened.

One could only imagine what may have followed. First, there was probably a deafening silence among them. Then, perhaps, they became afraid. Often fear sets in, when something happens that cannot be understood.

Then they thought and said, "What kind of man is this that even the winds and the waters do what He tells them to do?"

Can one really understand what it is like to have God, Who is come in the flesh, sitting alongside of you? Can one understand what it would be like to have the Creator of all things sitting alongside of you? What kind of power is it that God can speak, and the entire universe comes into existence?

The wind and sea obey Him, but few people will.

The wind and sea obey Him, but some of mankind curses His name. There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Such things as this re-affirm over and over His Deity.

As it has already been said, but now again: God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:27**. But the men marvelled (or were amazed), saying, What manner (or what kind) of man is this, that even the winds and the sea (or waves) obey him!



(30 years + 25 months)

Mt 8:28. And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him **two** possessed with devils (two demon possessed men), coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, (They were so violent) so that no man might pass by that way (or that road).

Mt 8:28. Jesus then went to the country or region of the Gergesenes (or Gadarenes). Reportedly, this name came from a town called Gadara.

There is much controversy as to its exact location. All seem to place it on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee. From there, some believe it is on the southern part of the eastern side. Others place it around the middle or northern part of the eastern side.

One needs to consider that the Sea of Galilee may have been higher in the days of Jesus in relation to the mountains on the eastern side, as at this time the mountains do not come up to the actual mountains. Some are steep.

At the top of the mountains is a large plateau called the Golan Heights, which has been much in the news.

When Jesus went there, two men that were possessed by devils met Him. They were beyond fierce. God's word describes them as exceedingly fierce. They were so terrifying, that no man might pass by that direction.

They came out from the tombs. This indicates it was a burial place.

They were uncontrollable.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:28**. And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him **two** possessed with devils (two demon possessed men), coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, (They were so violent) so that no man might pass by that way (or that road).

Mt 8:29. The two men that were possessed with devils, when they saw Jesus, cried out. The devils in them immediately recognized Jesus, the Son of God, and they were afraid.

They said: Art Thou come hither to torment us before the time?

The demons knew it was not yet the time, for their eternal torment to take place, but the world has little knowledge of what is coming.

Sometimes a demon possessed person may appear to be insane.

Note, that the demons are terrified of God.

It is interesting that those, who have had their

Mt 8:29. And, behold, they cried out (or shouted), saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither (or here) to torment (or torture) us before the (appointed) time?

Mt 8:30. And there was a good way (or distance) off from them an herd of many swine (or pigs) feeding.

Mt 8:31. So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us (or drive us) out, suffer (or send) us to go away into the herd of swine.

earthly body die, all fear God. If they are in heaven, they fear God. If they are in hell, they fear God.

True born again Christians, who understand the Bible as they ought, do fear God. God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints. Does your church teach this?

Yet, the wicked of this world that have not yet passed on—there is no fear of God before their eyes. Yet, they shall fear God; yes, they shall be terrified of God.

It is written: Rev 15:4-Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:29**. And, behold, they cried out (or shouted), saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither (or here) to torment (or torture) us before the (appointed) time?

Mt 8:30. The fact that there was a herd of pigs feeding nearby reveals that those that lived in this area did not observe or obey the Scriptures. Pigs were considered unclean.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:30**. And there was a good way (or distance) off from them an herd of many swine (or pigs) feeding.

Mt 8:31. The devils knew who Jesus was. They also knew He had total power to do with them whatsoever He wished.

They asked Jesus, if He was going to cast them out, to allow them to go into the herd of pigs. There were about 2000-ref Mk 5:1-16.

The question arises: what are these devils? There are several opinions regarding this subject.

The one we will mention here is this. Some scholars believe they are the evil, disembodied

Mt 8:32. And he said unto them, Go (or be gone). And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine (or pigs): and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place (or bank) into the sea (or lake), and perished (or died) in the waters.

Mt 8:33. And they that kept them fled (or ran off), and went their ways into the city (or town), and told every thing, and what was befallen (or

spirits of a previous creation.

The demons seem to desire occupying a human more than an animal.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:31**. So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us (or drive us) out, suffer (or send) us to go away into the herd of swine.

Mt 8:32. Jesus then gave the devils permission to come out of the two men and go into the herd of pigs. When this happened, the pigs became uncontrollable and rushed down a steep bank into the sea and drowned. As the man had become uncontrollable, so the pigs became the same.

Today, the Sea of Galilee does not come right up to the edge of the mountains. However this is about 2000 years later. There are places, that if the sea was not much higher, it would come right up to the base of some of the mountains.

The demons were afraid of Jesus. How is it then than mankind is not. Many curse His name. The day is coming that those that do such things, will not only be terrified of Him whose name they curse, but they will be screaming and crying, as they are tormented in the lake of fire. How is it that most Christians who hear such cursing do not face the person doing it? Many there are that are lukewarm. Few are strong in faith, very, very few.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:32**. And he said unto them, Go (or be gone). And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine (or pigs): and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place (or bank) into the sea (or lake), and perished (or died) in the waters.

Mt 8:33. Keeping pigs (which was considered unclean) was something that Jews were not to do. Once the swine had perished, those that

what had happened) to the possessed of the devils (or to the demon possessed man).

Mt 8:34. And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought (or entreated) him that he would depart out of their coasts (or region).

had kept them ran away to the city and told the people all that had happened.

As it has been said in **Mt 8:33**. And they that kept them fled (or ran off), and went their ways into the city (or town), and told every thing, and what was befallen (or what had happened) to the possessed of the devils (or to the demon possessed man).

Mt 8:34. After the people of the city heard all that had happened, they ALL came to meet Jesus and asked Him to leave their area. They did not want the presence of God to be in their midst. They did not want to repent. They were living in sin. They were far more concerned about their financial loss than the chance to inherit eternal life that was before them.

Here was God, come in the flesh. He could have healed their sick, but they turned away. They did not try to attack Him for doing what He did. They just wanted nothing to do with Him. They were afraid.

The big loss was not their animals. It was their souls, as they all now know.

How unfortunate today that most people want nothing to do with Jesus.

However, the man that was healed became a witness for Jesus.

There is no information that Jesus ever returned there. However, He left a witness—the man that had the demons cast out.

It is the same today. Many curse the name of Jesus. They swear using the name of Christ. They use the name of God as an object of scorn and hatred. They use the word "damn" following the name of God. It is not God that damns; it is Satan.

Why do people react this way?

It is because Satan fills the hearts of the unrepentant with thoughts of hatred toward the God of love. The devil makes people think he does not really exist.

God explains these things in the Bible, so what does Satan do? He puts in the minds of people not to read the Bible. As a result, very few people actually read the Bible anymore. Only God's Word reveals how to inherit eternal life. Only through God's Word can a person's faith grow. Without faith in Christ, there is no eternal life, only a fearful looking ahead of eternal damnation.

Nearly everyone is completely unaware that the Bible tells us that Satan deceives the whole world-ref Rev 12:9. (Previous was 30 years plus 25 months.)

As it has been said in **Mt 8:34**. And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought (or entreated) him that he would depart out of their coasts (or region).

If you have now read all the commentary for the previous chapter, consider returning to the beginning of the chapter and read just the verses again. Each verse should now have much more meaning to you.

[Click here for Mt. Chapter 9](#)

