

The Journey of Discipleship Begins

Matthew 8:1-13

I. Authority to Heal - 8:1-3

II. Authority and the Law - 8:4

“And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”

Matthew 8:2-3

III. Authority that is Divine - 8:5-9

IV. Authority that Invites - 8:10-13

‘Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” But the centurion said, “Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.” Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.”

Matthew 8:7-10

Life Group Study Questions

The Journey of Discipleship Begins

Matthew 8:1-13

1. Describe a time when you were at the beginning of an adventure that was new and unknown. What did it feel like? How is this similar to starting the journey of discipleship?
2. Discipleship is a journey away from independence into dependence upon Christ. Why does this journey require that we abandon our own preconceived notions about Jesus?
3. In Matthew 8-9 the writer takes us through 10 different healings that Jesus will perform. What is the issue that Matthew is seeking to instruct us about? Why is the authority of Jesus so central to discipleship?
4. Jesus' authority to heal is bigger than his ability to simply perform a miracle. What do we learn about His authority by the way he interacts, touches, and heals the man with leprosy (8:1-3)?

5. Jesus ties the healing of the leper into a huge revelation about the Law of Moses . . . He IS the fulfillment of the Law. He is the ultimate authority in our lives. Is this true of you, or do you have some other standard that rules you?
6. The centurion soldier approaches Christ with a "poor in spirit" humility and with an amazing faith. Why is this combination a prerequisite for everything in discipleship?
7. The response of the centurion to Jesus highlights that he believed that Jesus spoke directly for God. Jesus is amazed not just by the man's faith, but by what the man understood and believed. Do you believe Jesus can heal? Why, and why does it matter?
8. Jesus makes it clear that He has authority over those who will be invited into His banquet in the coming kingdom. The invitation will go to all who respond by faith in Him. Who does He surprisingly exclude (8:12)? Why should that put us on alert?
9. Write down the lessons you learned about discipleship and share them with one another.