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Matthew Chapter 8

The Faith of A Centurion!

As we venture into the 8th chapter of the book of Matthew, we find that our Messiah has finally completed his Sermon on the Mount, and Matthew continues to document the ministry of our Messiah as he begins to slowly make himself known to the world at large. But Yeshua at this point in time doesn't want to fully make himself known to the world just yet.

Yeshua clearly wanted to draw the attention of the believer to himself, but he does not want to draw the attention of the world at large just yet. We'll soon see in Matthew chapter 8 that Yeshua does not want himself to be seen as a simple miracle worker that does miracles. Nor does he want to draw attention to himself to soon because he knows that in the end, they will ultimately put him to death, and he has to be careful in not drawing to much attention to himself before his time.

We'll also see even more evidence of the Torah... the Law of Yehvoah God his Father being taught in Matthew chapter 8, and we'll see our Messiah once again upholding his Father's law just as he has all throughout his sermon on the mount. And this should be especially important to those who have been wrongly and shamefully taught that the Law of God has all been done away with and is nothing more than a curse that we don't have to be bothered with. And so, be on the lookout as we read through Matthew chapter 8 for our Messiah's allegiance to the spoken word of his Father and why the spoken word of God is so vitally important to him, and why it should also be vitally important to us all.

In Matthew chapter 8 we'll see many different aspects of our Messiah's ministry. We'll see him begin to heal many people along his travels. But we won't see him heal all people... which is a point that we'll get into more as we progress

throughout our study. We'll see who it was that had the most faith in all of Israel according to our Messiah. We'll see the cost of following our Messiah, and we'll see how it is that our Messiah has the power even to this very day to calm the storms in our lives.

We'll see demon possessed people and people foolishly begging our Messiah to leave their region. And we'll see our Messiah once again setting up his ministry as he begins to reveal himself to those whom he was sent to first spread this gospel message to. And so, let us once again take the time to read through the 8th chapter of the book of Matthew so that we can once again know exactly what it does say... and just as importantly... what it does not say. **Matthew chapter 8 E1;**

Jesus Cleanses a Leper

Mat 8:1 When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him.

Mat 8:2 And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."

Mat 8:3 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Mat 8:4 And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

The Faith of a Centurion

Mat 8:5 When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him,

Mat 8:6 "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly."

Mat 8:7 And he said to him, "I will come and heal him."

Mat 8:8 But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed."

Mat 8:9 For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Mat 8:10 When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith."

Mat 8:11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,

Mat 8:12 while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Mat 8:13 And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

Jesus Heals Many

Mat 8:14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick

with a fever.

Mat 8:15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him.

Mat 8:16 That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.

Mat 8:17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

The Cost of Following Jesus

Mat 8:18 Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side.

Mat 8:19 And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

Mat 8:20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Mat 8:21 Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

Mat 8:22 And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

Jesus Calms a Storm

Mat 8:23 And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.

Mat 8:24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep.

Mat 8:25 And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing."

Mat 8:26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Mat 8:27 And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

Jesus Heals Two Men with Demons

Mat 8:28 And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way.

Mat 8:29 And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

Mat 8:30 Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them.

Mat 8:31 And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs."

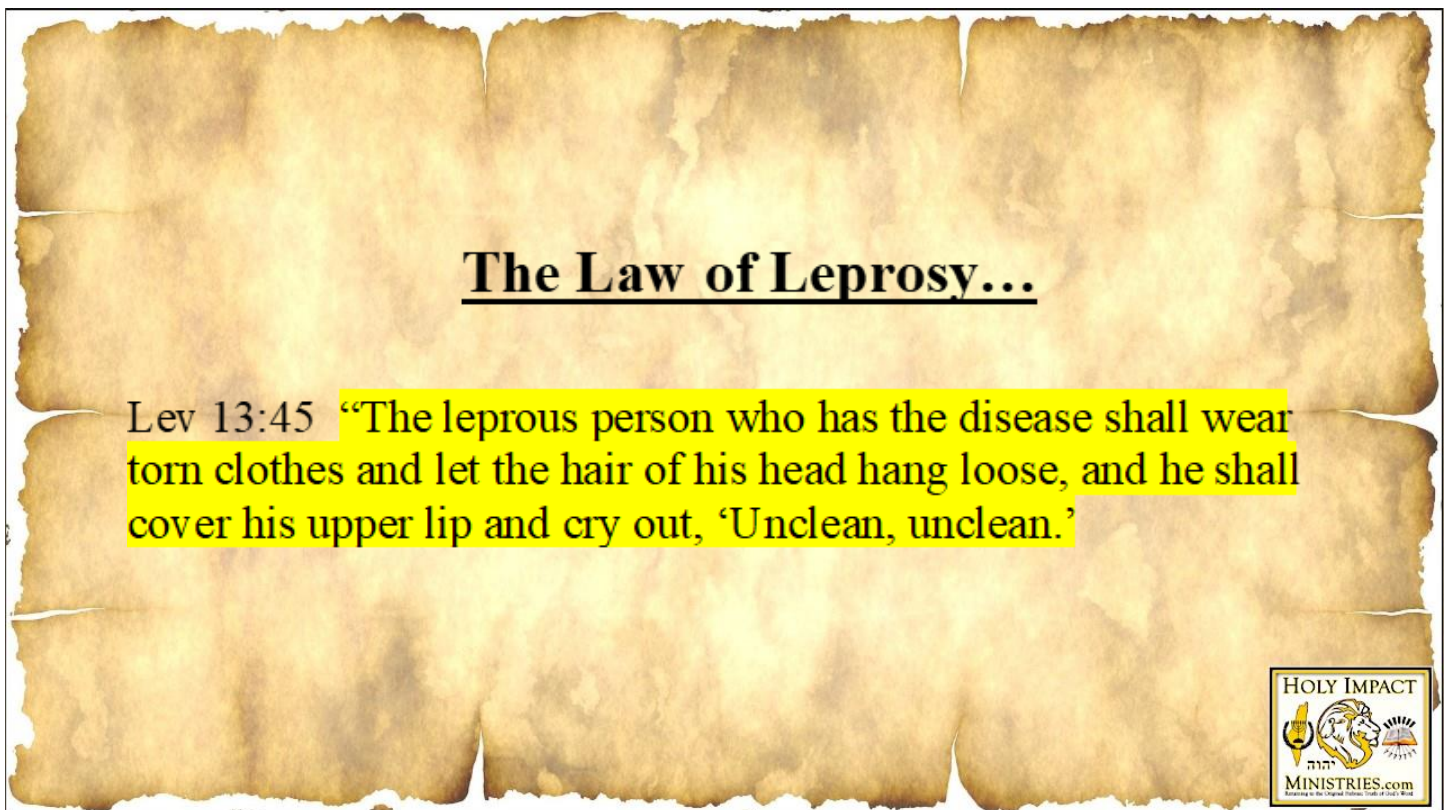
Mat 8:32 And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters.

Mat 8:33 The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men.

Mat 8:34 And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they

begged him to leave their region.

As Matthew begins the 8th chapter of the book of Matthew, he begins with making mention of a leper that our Messiah had healed. Leprosy was an extremely debilitating disease that made one ceremonially unclean as well as physically afflicted. Leprosy itself caused the human body to literally rot away and was followed by a rather slow and painful death. It was also highly contagious, and it was commanded in Leviticus chapter 13 that those with this debilitating disease were to live outside of the camp alone. In fact... there is a whole chapter in the book of Leviticus that has to do with laws about leprosy, and you can find that in Leviticus chapter 13. Leviticus chapters 13 and 14 have to do with this disease that had literally lasted for thousands of years and people who had this disease were commanded to wear torn clothes and to let the hair of their heads hang loose. They were to cover their upper lips and to cry out as they walked by shouting... “Unclean! Unclean!” in order to let people around them know that they were infected with this very contagious disease. (scrn 1)



And so, the point that needs to be understood here is that no one in their right mind would even approach someone who was leprous and had this very contagious disease. And this is what’s most striking about this particular event.

Our Messiah was not only not afraid to approach this leper... but he even went farther than simply approaching him. He actually reached out and touched him. And not only did he touch him... but he healed him from the leprosy that he had. And I want us to stop right here for just a moment and think about this healing for just a moment.

Our Messiah right here in Matthew chapter 8 heals a man with leprosy. Does he heal all men with leprosy? Does he do away with leprosy all together? Does he cleanse the world of leprosy? No. And so the question then becomes... why not? If he could heal one man, could he not heal all men?

The answer to that question is a resounding “yes he could have”. But he did not. Why not? Why would he leave the world with the dark debilitating plague of leprosy if he could have healed everyone?

The first thing that we must understand is that leprosy was often times used as God’s punishment for disobedience. We can see this over and over again in places like 2nd Kings chapter 5 concerning Gehazi the servant of Elisha, 2nd Chronicles chapter 26 concerning Uzziah, Numbers chapter 12 concerning Miriam when she opposed Moses. And in 2nd Kings we find that Gehazi the servant of Elisha was not only plagued personally with leprosy, but it was also written that leprosy would also cling to his descendants as well. **2nd Kings 5:27 (scrn 2)**

Leprosy And The Descendants of Gehazi...

2Ki 5:27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper, like snow.



And so, the point that needs to be understood here is that Yeshua healed this one man for a very specific reason, and that reason was to help people understand who he was. But what's even more important to understand is who it was that he was trying to reach through the healing of this leper. What did our Messiah tell the leper to do after he healed him? He told the leper to say nothing to anyone but to go show himself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded for proof to them.

And so... who was it that our Messiah was attempting to reach through the healing of the leper? It was the Priests at the temple that he was attempting to reach first. It was the priests at the Temple that he wanted to turn. He wanted them to have the first opportunity to come... but they would not. And it was because they had reached out to them first... to make himself known to them that they were indeed guilty beyond measure when it came to rejecting not only him... but the God that they claimed to be serving. And what's even more shocking to think about is the fact that if our Messiah was to somehow attempt to make himself known to today's pastors, priests, bishops, rabbis, and popish leaders... they too would not recognize him or the God that sent him for the exact same reasons.

You see, the Pharisees and Scribes of our Messiah's time had added too and taken away from the word of God to the point that they had their Messiah standing there

right before their very eyes, living within their own town and yet... they could not see him nor hear him. And this is what happens when we add too and take away from God's word. When we do these things and when we make void the word of God in order to hold onto our own traditions, we make ourselves guilty of sin and transgression. And by doing these things we willfully and intentionally close our eyes and ears to the truth that he's trying to get through to us. And by closing our eyes and ears to the truth... which is his spoken word... we reject the life-giving manna that gives life that is... the word of God.

You see, the Priest's and those running the Temple were in great sin and were more in need of a Savior... a ransom... a Passover Lamb than anyone because of what they were teaching. What these Pharisees were teaching was actually driving God's people farther and farther away from him instead of bringing them back to him. And nothing has changed to this very day my friends. There is nothing new under the sun. What we see our Pastors, Priests, Bishops, Rabbis and popish leaders doing today in our time is at least 10-fold worse... than what the Pharisees of our Messiah's time were doing. At least they still read the Law of God in their synagogues. At least the truth was still spoken within the walls of their churches. At least they were attempting to observe the Sabbaths and feast days and appointments of God. Today... we do none of these things. Today in our time we have thrown the proverbial baby out with the bathwater.

But the point that needs to be made here is that our Messiah tried to reach the Priests at the Temple first... and they... were the first to deny him.

And please... please also make note of the fact that our Messiah told the leper that he had just healed to once again obey the commandment of Moses and offer a gift at the Temple! Yeshua commanded the leper to offer the gift that Moses commanded. Once again... we see our Messiah teaching and preaching the Law of Yehvoah God his Father at every turn all throughout his ministry. There was no question as far as our Messiah was concerned whether or not his Father's Law still stood and would still stand long after he would leave the cross.

Nowhere in our Messiah's ministry will we ever hear him teaching that the law is done away with or that the law has somehow become some kind of curse. You will not find that demonically inspired nonsense anywhere within the confines of your God breathed Scripture and certainly not according to the very Jewish Matthw.

And so, once again just as we have seen all throughout our Messiah's sermon on the mount... our Messiah was teaching and preaching the Torah of his Father in order to bring his Father's people back to him, not to drive them away from him as today's modern-day Pharisees and Scribes do.

And what is even more shocking is who it was that our Messiah said had more faith than anyone that he had found in the land of Israel.

In Matthew chapter 8 verses 5 through 10 we find a Roman Centurion that has the courage to approach our Messiah and ask for the healing of one of his servants who was paralyzed. This Roman Centurion was concerned about this person who was under his command, and he knew that the only one that he could turn to was the one that could heal this servant. And that one... was the only begotten Son of Yehvoah God. And so, this Roman Centurion comes before our Messiah and asks that his servant would be healed and when Yeshua tells him that he will come and that he will heal him.... The Centurion says that he is not worthy to have our Messiah come under his roof. But he knows and believes... and has faith enough to know that if Yeshua would simply say the word... his servant would be healed.

Isn't it strange... isn't it shocking... isn't it a crying shame... that the one man who had the most faith in all of Israel was not even from the house of Israel? The one who had the most faith in all of Israel was not a Jew, not a Priest, not a teacher of the Torah, but a Roman Gentile Centurion.

Which once again begs the question... to whom has the arm of Yehvoah been revealed? **Isiah chapter 53 E2;**

Isa 53:1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Isa 53:2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

Isa 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isa 53:4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Isa 53:8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

Isa 53:9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Isa 53:10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Isa 53:11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Isa 53:12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

And yes, my friends... this is from what we call the “Old Testament” back in the beginning of the Book. And strangely enough... this Roman Centurion knew who this young plant was. He knew who this servant of Yehovah God was. And he knew who could heal his paralyzed servant.

This Roman Centurion had what no one else had, and that was true belief and true faith. A belief and a faith that fueled his good works to want to heal his servant. A belief and a faith that was recognizable in the eyes of our Messiah from the very beginning. A Roman soldier, a man of war, a man who worked for the Roman government. And yet... he had more faith than anyone that our Messiah had found in Israel up to that point.

This is striking my friends and I would submit to you that we ourselves should take this to heart and not allow ourselves to be caught up in this trap of thinking that we are holier than we are. Holiness is a byproduct of Godliness. Holiness is a byproduct of obedience. Holiness is a byproduct of true faith, true belief, and true tenacity and fortitude that drives us to do... what is good and right and just in the eyes of our Father in heaven.

True faith and true belief have everything to do with honoring our Father in heaven

by doing as he commands us to do. Once again, the very biblical definition of the love of God... is that we not only keep his commandments... but that his commandments are not burdensome for us to do. (scrn 3)

The Biblical Definition of The Love of God:

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

1Jn 5:3 **For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.** And his commandments are not burdensome.

Is this what your Pastor is teaching?



And by the way my friends... this was not the only Roman Centurion that we find with faith. Let us also remember the Centurion Cornelius in the tenth chapter of the book of Acts who also feared and honored Yehvoah God. **Acts 10:1-2 (scrn 4)**

Another Centurion Who Believed And Had Faith!

Act 10:1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort,

Act 10:2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.



And once again, we see another Roman Centurion who had come to the truth of Yehovah's word just like the first Roman Centurion had. And this is not the only two Roman Centurions who had come to the truth because of Yeshua. **Mark 15:37-39 (scrn 5)**

The Faith of Roman Centurions!

Mar 15:37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

Mar 15:38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Mar 15:39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"



And so, as we take a closer look at who it was that our Messiah did reach... we can clearly see that the wide scope of people that he was reaching included all kinds of different people with different job descriptions and lifestyles from the very rich to the very poor. And even though our Messiah was trying to keep his ministry somewhat on the downlow until he had completed his mission... the world was quickly finding out who he was and as they did... they began to flock towards him.

And before we move on from these Roman Centurion believers... I'd like to once again re-visit the Roman Centurion Cornelius in Acts chapter 10 because it is here that we get a better picture of why the Roman Centurion in Matthew chapter 8 says that he was not worthy to have Yeshua under his roof.

Most unstudied modern-day Christians today will try to tell you that Acts chapter 10 has everything to do with eating unclean animals. But the context of Acts chapter 10 has absolutely nothing to do with eating unclean animals my friends. If we read the text properly, we're told in Acts chapter 10 verse 17 that Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision of the sheet full of animals meant. Peter clearly knew that it had nothing to do with eating unclean food. In fact, it's not until verse 28 that Peter finally realizes the meaning of the vision that he had with the sheet full of animals. **Acts 10:28 (scrn 6)**

Peter Now Understands The Vision...

Act 10:28 And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.



You see the vision of the sheet of animals that Peter saw was a vision given to Peter in order to help him understand that God’s people are not dogs or unclean which is what the Pharisees were teaching. The Pharisees had taken it upon themselves to point to the Gentiles as being like dogs. They used to call the gentiles “goyim”, and they would teach that if you were a Jew, you could not enter into the house of a goyim Gentile. The Pharisees taught that Gentiles were not equal with Jews and that Gentiles were unclean and so were their homes. This once again... was never taught anywhere in the Torah. In fact... just the opposite is taught in the Torah.

The Law of God never taught such a demonically inspired thing. And this is once again why this vision was given to Peter so that Peter would understand that it was wrong to call any person who was created in the image of God a dog or unclean or common. And this was most likely one of the reasons that this Roman Centurion in Matthew chapter 8 thought that he was not worthy to have our Messiah in his home.

And so, as we read through the 8th chapter of the book of Matthew let us not be ignorant of the law of the Pharisees which was the law of the land back in that day. Even the apostles themselves were at times having trouble separating the law of the land that the Pharisees were teaching... from the Law of Yehovah God. And this is

something that modern day Christians today in our time are still struggling with today.

Most modern-day professing Christians in our time are unable to separate the law of the church and their denominational charters of men from the truth of God's word. Today's Christian is far more lost than the Jew of our Messiah's time ever was. Today we don't even keep the 7th day Sabbath of Yehvoah anymore because it's been hijacked by wolves in sheep's clothing who are far more dangerous than the Pharisees and Scribes of our Messiah's time. Those who belong to the beast who... just as Daniel prophesied in Daniel chapter 7 verse 25 would think to change the times and the Law of God.

The feast days and appointment of our Father in heaven that all point directly to our Messiah and who he truly was... is... and always will be, have all long ago been hidden and the festivals and feast days of man have replaced the feast days and appointments of God with their own pagan concoctions and wicked man-made traditions that literally mock... the very truth of Yehvoah God's word.

And so... as we read through these God breathed Scriptures for ourselves... we need to slow down and study them and contemplate what it is that our Messiah was trying to teach and preach to his people. And this is exactly why we always proclaim time and time again that it is important to read these Scriptures for ourselves so that we can know not just what they do say... but what they do not say. Because today's modern-day Pharisees are all too ready to add too and take away from the word of Yehvoah God the exact same way that the Pharisees of our Messiah's time did. And this is exactly why our Messiah called them... children of the devil himself.

What the Apostle Matthew is striving to demonstrate to us within these red-letter words that he has recorded for us... is that our Messiah came to bring us back to his Father. He came to humble himself before both God and man as an example to us. He came to be a servant. Not to make it all about himself and to celebrate his own birthday and to create his own Sabbath and festivals. And this humble nature of a servant is an example that we can all learn from.

Yes, our Messiah pointed to the Pharisees as children of the devil. Yes, he formed a whip out of chords and went in and kicked the tables over in his Father's temple. Yes, he spoke out strongly against the wicked ways of the world and the law of the

land that had been created by the Pharisees and the Scribes of his time, but... he also humbled himself before his Apostles, washing their feet, teaching them diligently, answering their questions, and even allowing himself to be lead like a Lamb to slaughter so that they... might live.

Our Messiah was indeed both Lion and Lamb. He knew when to stand and when to fight, and he also knew when to be silent and to be humble. And by doing both of these things at the proper time... he was able to endure and to conquer the same way that he expects us to endure and to conquer.

Moving on to Matthew chapter 8 verses 14 through 17 Yeshua once again heals Peters mother who was laying sick with a fever. And when people had heard of this, they began to bring those oppressed with demons and those who were sick, but we need to understand why he did this. Why did Yeshua heal people during his ministry? Why didn't he heal all the people of the earth? Why didn't he cast the demons out of all of mankind that day? Because he was once again not there to save the world from their fleshly trials and tribulations and the ailments that they had by in large brought about themselves. He was there to fulfill prophecy. The prophecy of Isaiah in particular. And Matthew tells us in Matthew chapter 8 verse 17 that this healing was to fulfill what was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah who had prophesied that our Messiah would take our illnesses and bare our diseases. And once again... you can find that in Issiah chapter 53 verse 43 that we've already read here this morning.

You see this healing that our Messiah did he did to fulfill prophecy so that the people witnessing it would be able to put the dots together and understand that he truly was their Messiah and the only begotten Son of Yehovah God that the prophets had prophesied about. And this healing represented not only what the prophets before him had foretold... but this healing also represented what his Father would do at the end of the age when he comes to re-create the heavens and the earth and make all things new again. **Revelation 21:4 (scrn 7)**

No Death, Mourning Or Pain Anymore!

Rev 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”



Moving forward... in Matthew chapter 8 verses 18 through 22 we see the cost of following our Messiah. It is written that a Scribe came up to him and said that he would follow him wherever he went, but our Messiah told him that foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head. And another disciple came to him and said to him “Lord let me first go and bury my father.” But Yeshua replied to him and said, “follow me and leave the dead to bury their own dead”. What did this mean... exactly?

What Yeshua was trying to tell this disciple, was that what he had to give to this disciple was much more important than burying his Father. This disciple had the choice between life and death. Which would he choose? If he wanted life... then he needed to make the proper decision. This once again was somewhat of a parable that our Messiah was teaching his disciples. It is written a little farther down in Matthew chapter ten that our Messiah says, “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” This was a clear pivotal point in this disciple’s life. Who would this disciple choose... to love more?

In Matthew chapter 8 verses 23 through 27 we find our Messiah with his Apostles at sea in a ship in the middle of a great storm. And his Apostles were so afraid that

they actually believed that they were about to die. And all the while what was our Messiah doing? Well according to the book of Mark who was telling the exact same story... our Messiah was taking a nap. Let's read Mark's account of this exact same event where we're given a little more information. **Mark 4:35-41 E3**

Jesus Calms a Storm

Mar 4:35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."

Mar 4:36 And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.

Mar 4:37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.

Mar 4:38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

Mar 4:39 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Mar 4:40 He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Mar 4:41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

And so here the followers of our Messiah are on this ship with him that's in the middle of a horrendous storm and they all think that they're going to die, and where's our Messiah? He's taking a nap. And when they come to him, they're about out of their minds thinking that they're all going to die and what does our Messiah do? He rebukes the wind and tells it to be still. And then he turns to his disciples and asks them why they have so little faith.

And so, what's the moral of this story? What is it that we should be taking away from this story exactly? Are we to think that we have the power to stop a bad thunderstorm from coming? Are we to think that we can control the weather? Are we to think that if we can't stop a storm from coming... that we have no faith?

Listen closely to the last verse here in Mark chapter 4 which agrees with what Matthew tells us in his account of this same story... it says; "And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (scrn 8)

The Moral Of The Story...

Mark:

Mar 4:41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Matthew:

Mat 8:27 And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”



The moral of the story is not that we can stop thunderstorms by ourselves my friends. The moral of the story is that our Messiah can stop the storms. And if we are in him and he is in us... then we can trust in him to help us through the storm if... that is if... we truly believe not in ourselves... but in him. Which leads us right back to what sort of man this is that the winds and the seas would obey him.

In Matthew chapter 8 verses 28 through 34 we see our Messiah casting demons out of a couple of men in the country of the Gadarenes after they get out of the boat. And what does the demon call our Messiah in verse 29? He calls him and I quote “Son of God”. As soon as these demonically possessed men saw our Messiah, they said to him and I quote, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God?”

Clearly... even the demons knew that Yeshua was indeed the only begotten Son of Yehvoah God. The problem that Yeshua’s followers had was that they were still not really clear in their minds who Yeshua was yet, and this is why they doubted when in the storm in the boat. It was because they were not sure of who he was that they feared for their very lives. As far as they were concerned at that moment in the middle of the storm death was coming for them! How foolish could they have been when the whole time the Son of God was taking a nap right in front of them. The very same one who came to... give them life.

These demon possessed men were a testament in themselves as to who Yeshua was and imagine the embarrassment that his disciples must have felt after just a few moments ago... doubting who Yeshua was... and then hearing that even the demons knew who he was.

In the meantime, these demons beg Yeshua to allow them to go into a herd of pigs. And we need to once again stop here for just a moment in order to understand why it was that our Messiah allowed this legion of demons to enter into these pigs.

Pigs were known as one of the most unclean animals that there was. No Jew would have been raising a herd of pigs because pigs were always known as unclean animals. They were created to be the vacuum cleaners of the earth. Pigs will eat literally anything. They even eat their own young. You can even give a pig arsenic and it won't hurt them. They consume the trash of the field, and they take those toxins and parasites into themselves, and this is God's way of cleansing the earth. God has many animals just like the pig that were specifically created to keep the earth toxin free. Crabs and crustaceans eat the dung of fish and other toxins off the bottom of the oceans. And when we eat these animals... after God has told us not to eat them... we invite a whole host of toxins and parasites into our bodies that our bodies were not created to handle.

And so Yeshua allows the demons to go into the pigs and the pigs of course run down the bank into the sea and they all drown. So... what we have at this moment in time is a sea full of dead pigs floating on the shore... our Messiah standing on a hill... and to previously demon oppressed naked men sitting with him. And so... when the people of that town see all of this, they beg Yeshua to leave their region. And it shouldn't be too difficult for us to understand why when we stop and think about the scene that they were taking in that day.

The people of this region obviously did not know who our Messiah was. And whoever owned that herd of pigs was out an awful lot of money. Once again... worldly people who have made themselves friends of the world have made themselves enemies of God. And because they did not see him nor know him... they ignorantly sent him away. Which is another lesson that we can take from this historical event.

The healing of people and the many miracles that Yeshua does here in Matthew

chapter 8 will continue throughout his ministry in order to fulfill the prophecies of the prophets before him and to allow the people that he was speaking to, to know and understand that he was indeed the Messiah... the “Anointed One” that they had been waiting for since Genesis chapter three verse 15. And we’ll see a long laundry list of people that Yeshua will ultimately heal fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah while teaching them how and why it’s so important to understand and be obedient to the spoken word of his Father.

Next week as we venture into Matthew chapter 9, we’ll see the invitation that our Messiah gave to the Apostle Matthew to come and follow him, and we’ll see our Messiah fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah through these healings all throughout his ministry once again marking him as... the only begotten Son of God.

Until then my hope and my prayer is that we will all take the time to sit down and read the Bible from the beginning which starts with the book of Genesis and not the book of Matthew. Because if we have not read the book from the beginning... we will certainly by no means have the ability to understand what it is that we’re reading here in the book of Matthew at the end of the book.

And with that being said... I will do as I always do and once again ask as I always do that everyone within the sound of my voice would please... take what you have heard here today to your own prayer closet, and bow your head, and bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here today be true... or not.

Ask, seek, and knock on his door, and his door alone and the proper door will be opened to you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end... you and I will surely walk through the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.