



Chapter 8:1-4

- Matt. 8:1 When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.
- Matt. 8:2 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”
- Matt. 8:3 Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
- Matt. 8:4 And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

Context

The key verses for unlocking the subject and application of the next two chapters are...

- Matt. 8:16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,
- Matt. 8:17 that it might be *fulfilled* which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.”

You’ll recall that Matthew’s purpose for writing his Gospel account is to present Jesus as the long-awaited King! Remember too that Matthew is writing primarily for a Jewish audience. Therefore, he appeals to the Old Testament prophets to present the credentials that identify the King. Here he quotes from Isaiah 53 who foretold that the King (Messiah) would be a healer and a miracle worker. So, in these next two chapters we find Jesus on a “miracle tour”! Tearing up the kingdom of Darkness—healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out demons, cleansing lepers! Matthew’s point is that Jesus provided all the evidence necessary to prove that He is the Messiah King!

Observations & Discussion

1. Read the leper's request in vs. 2; what evidence do you find that suggests the leper had great faith in Jesus?

2. Going back over chapter 7 vs. 28-29 and now reading these opening verses in chapter 8 where do you think the leper got his great faith?

3. Looking over the many miracles recorded in the Gospels we find that Jesus never healed anyone the same way twice. Here Jesus chose to **touch** the leper: Why is that significant? What does that tell you about Jesus? What does it tell you about His relationship with you?

4. Look at Leviticus 14:1-20; in view of what you read in Leviticus why do you think Jesus sent the cleansed leper to the priests?

5. Modern "Christian" scholars* claim that the miracles in the Gospels, including the resurrection, never happened. Is that how you read this text? What evidence from the Scripture can you use to prove that the followers of Jesus experienced actual miracles?

6. Do you believe that Jesus still heals people today? Have you or someone you know been healed by Jesus? If so please share that testimony with your group.

*Robert Funk and the Fellows of the Jesus Seminar.