

# The Gospel of Matthew

## Booklet 10 – Two Lessons

Lesson 24 - Matthew 8:14-22

Lesson 25 - Matthew 8:23-34

## *Jesus as a Healer, Continued*



**International ESL/Bible Lessons**  
Intermediate to Advanced Level

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Much of the material in these lessons come from *The Gospel of Matthew, Vol. I*, by William Barclay. Daily Study Bible Series. Other content comes from Bible Commentaries, Dictionaries and on-line sources. All pictures are from Google Images.

# **The Gospel Of Matthew**

Chapter 8 shows the Miracles of Jesus.

There are Seven Miraculous Happenings listed here.

1. Healing of the Untouchable Leper
2. Healing of the Centurion's Servant (A Gentile)
3. The Healing of Peter's Mother (Family and private) 8: 14-15
4. Healing of the sick in the evening (Inconvenient) 8:16-17
5. Miracle of the Scribe (Attitude/Personality Healing) 8: 17-22
6. Miracle of the Calming of the Storm (Nature)
7. Healing of the Gerasene demoniac. (Dealing with belief in the Devil)

## **Lesson 24 - Matthew 8:14-22 Family Healing**

<sup>14</sup> When Jesus came into Peter's house, / he saw Peter's mother-in-law / lying in bed with a fever. / <sup>15</sup> He touched her hand / and the fever left her, / and she got up and began to wait on him.

### **Inconvenient Healing**

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, / many / who were demon-possessed / were brought to him, / and he drove out the spirits with a word / and healed all the sick. / <sup>17</sup> This was to fulfill / what was spoken / through the prophet Isaiah:

"He took up our infirmities / and bore our diseases." (Isaiah 53:4)

## **The Cost of Following Jesus**

<sup>18</sup> When Jesus saw the crowd around him, / he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. / <sup>19</sup> Then a teacher of the law came to him / and said, / “Teacher, / I will follow you wherever you go.”

<sup>20</sup> Jesus replied, / “Foxes have dens / and birds have nests, / but the Son of Man / has no place to lay his head.”

<sup>21</sup> Another disciple said to him, / “Lord, / first let me go and bury my father.”

<sup>22</sup> But Jesus told him, / “Follow me, / and let the dead bury their own dead.”

## **Vocabulary**

1. Two word verb: *to wait on*: To serve someone. *A waiter waits on people at a restaurant, yet a mother waits on the school bell to ring so she can pick up her children.*
2. Demon-possessed: In many of the belief systems of the world, demons are the controlling force that causes illness or forgetfulness or other problems. Jesus as a healer would confront these and heal.
3. Infirmities: Weaknesses. Illnesses. Disabilities.

## **Questions**

1. Every country had healers. Modern medicine as we know it is relatively new in history. What are healing methods in your country even now?
2. How do you think the citizens of Capernaum knew how to find Jesus?
3. In what priority order do we place our families?
4. Why is it surprising that a Jewish scribe would even listen to Jesus?
5. Why do you think so many wanted to follow Jesus?

## **Notes**

1. *The Gospel of Mark* was written before *The Gospel of Matthew*, and both Matthew and Luke use many of the same stories that Mark tells. In Mark's telling of this story, this happened in Capernaum on the Sabbath Day.
2. Jesus had his "headquarters" in Capernaum in the home of Peter for Peter was married. His mother-in-law lived with them.
3. Legend tells us that Peter and his wife, after the death of Jesus, traveled together and worked for God together. They were killed together for being Christians. We do not know this as fact.
4. There were, according to William Barclay, three kinds of fever in the area around Capernaum during this time:

- 1) Malta fever: It was known by weakness, wasting away, and anemia. It ended in death.
- 2) Perhaps Typhoid Fever. This comes from drinking contaminated water, and is common today around the world.
- 3) Malaria: This comes from malaria mosquitos, and the marshy ground around the Sea of Galilee was a breeding ground for them.

Both Tiberias and Capernaum were areas where Malaria was prevalent.

5. For this healing, there was no publicity. This story could only have been told by Peter. Peter's mother-in-law is not named, but she is admired, for she immediately got up and began helping others. She did not leave it all to her daughter to do.
6. Jesus was busy on the Sabbath day. Yet Sabbath law forbids Jews to do any work on that day. So when sundown came, and two stars could be seen in the sky, the Sabbath ended. Then, the people came out with their sick and asked Jesus for help. It may have been inconvenient, but Jesus responded.
7. This section of Matthew 8:18-22 seems almost out of place. Yet it is an attitude miracle that any scribe or teacher of the Jewish Law should listen to Jesus and offer to become a follower. He even

called Jesus *Rabbi*. Scribes were very legalistic and here was the rebel Jesus, helping people and talking of God.

8. Jesus told this man to *count the cost* of following him. For Jesus had no home, no wealth, and no material prosperity. Yet he was rich in followers, and in his love of God. We should all count the cost as we make our decisions in life.
9. Yet another man comes and offers to follow Jesus. He probably meant that he could not leave home until after his father's death, which might not happen for many years. Acting on an impulse, before counting the cost, is not wise. The man did not seize the moment and follow Jesus. Should he have? We do not know.

# **The Gospel Of Matthew**

## **Lesson 25 - Matthew 8:23-34 Jesus Calms the Storm**

<sup>23</sup> Then he got into the boat / and his disciples followed him. /

<sup>24</sup> Suddenly / a furious storm came up on the lake, / so that the waves swept over the boat. / But Jesus was sleeping. / <sup>25</sup> The disciples went and woke him, / saying, / “Lord, / save us! / We’re going to drown!”

<sup>26</sup> He replied, / “You of little faith, / why are you so afraid?” / Then he got up / and rebuked the winds / and the waves, / and it was completely calm. /

<sup>27</sup> The men were amazed / and asked, / “What kind of man is this? / Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

## **Jesus Restores Two Demon-Possessed Men**

<sup>28</sup> When he arrived at the other side / in the region of the Gadarenes, / two demon-possessed men / coming from the tombs / met him. / They were so violent / that no one could pass that way. / <sup>29</sup> “What do you want with us, / Son of God?” / they shouted. / “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”

<sup>30</sup> Some distance from them / a large herd of pigs was feeding. /

<sup>31</sup> The demons begged Jesus, / “If you drive us out, / send us into the herd of pigs.”



<sup>32</sup> He said to them, / “Go!” / So they came out / and went into the pigs, / and the whole herd / rushed down the steep bank into the lake / and died in the water. / <sup>33</sup> Those tending the pigs ran off, / went into the town and reported all this, / including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. / <sup>34</sup> Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. / And when they saw him, / they pleaded with him to leave their region.

### ***Vocabulary***

1. To rebuke:
2. Pigs: Farm animal with a large snout or nose. Swine. (Pork is the meat.)

### **Vocabulary Expansion: Pig has many meanings in English**

- A greedy person
- A coarse or dirty looking or sounding person
- A block of metal, as in pig iron
- A very offensive term

A pig in a poke: Something that is bought or obtained without being inspected to see whether it is worth having.

To pig out: To eat way too much.

### ***Questions***

1. What is the calming of the storm really about?
2. This miracle of nature is very famous. Why do think that is so?

3. What does pig mean in your country?
4. Why did the people of the village think this area was dangerous?
5. Why do you think they ask Jesus and his followers to leave?

### **Notes**

1. In verse 18, we find that the crowds surrounded Jesus, and he wanted to get into the boat. It took a while to make that happen. The Sea of Galilee is small; it is 13 miles from north to south, and 8 miles from east to west at its widest point. It is 680 feet below sea level, and offers a warm and gracious climate.
2. However, the Sea of Galilee can also be quite dangerous. Barclay tells us that “On the west side there are hills with valleys and gullies; and when a cold wind comes from the west, these valleys and gullies act like gigantic funnels. The wind becomes compressed in them, and rushes down upon the lake with savage violence and with startling suddenness, so that the calm of one moment can become the raging storm of another.
3. Dr. W.M. Christ, a long time resident of Galilee writes: “A company of visitors was standing on the shore at Tiberius, and, noting the glassy surface of the water and the smallness of the lake, they expressed doubts as to the possibility of such storms as those described in the gospels. Almost immediately the wind sprang up. In twenty minutes the sea was white with foam-

crested waves. Great billows broke over the towers / at the the corners of the city walls, / and the visitors were compelled to seek shelter / from the blinding spray, / though now two hundred yards from the lakeside.” (Barclay, p. 317)

4. The meaning of this story is greater than one isolated miracle. We interpret the story: *wherever Jesus is, the storms of life become a calm. It means that in the presence of Jesus the most terrible tempests turns to peace.*
5. Jesus arrived at the other side of the Sea of Galilee. We do not archeologically know the exact place where Gadara might be. However Jesus and his followers were met by two demon possessed men who lived in the tomb or graveyard area.
6. Bodies in the ancient world were almost always buried outside the cities and towns. They were generally considered unclean and it was safer for the people to have tombs away from the population centers. Here is the place of bandits and crazies in most ancient cities.
7. The men were shouting at Jesus and they almost certainly believed they were demon possessed. They also believed that demons could be killed by water. What happened? Scripture tells us the demons begged to go into the pigs.
8. Across the Sea of Galilee is the ancient area of the Decapolis. It was a series of Roman and Greek cities where pigs were

considered food. The Jews of Judea considered pigs to be unclean and did not and do not today eat pork or pork product.

9. Jesus was there when the pigs went over the cliff. A drove or herd of pigs was a lot of investment for a farmer. The men of that area lost the animals that were of use to them. So, perhaps that is why Jesus was asked to leave the area.
10. It is often said that Jesus never left the area. This area is definitely out of Galilee or Judea and was considered a Gentile area.
11. What happened to the men who were healed? We know they went back into the town. Evidently they were believed as a large group followed them back to the sea shore and to meet Jesus.