### Matthew

## Chapter 8

1Then, as he was coming down the mountain (along with a large crowd that was following him), 2{Look!} a man with leprosy came up and bowed low before him, and said:  
  
 ‘Lord, if you just want to, you can make me clean!’  
  
3So [Jesus] stuck out his hand and touched him, and said:  
  
 ‘I want to… Be clean.’  
  
And [the man] was immediately wiped clean of his leprosy.  
  
4Then Jesus said to him:  
  
 ‘Don’t tell anyone [about this]… Just go and show yourself to the Priests, then offer the gift that Moses specified, so they can testify to what happened.’  
  
5And as he was entering CapharNaum, a [Roman] Centurion came up to him and said:  
  
 6‘Lord,  
  
 ‘My [house]boy is so paralyzed that he can’t leave my home, and he’s in a lot of pain!’  
  
7So [Jesus] told him:  
  
 ‘I’ll cure him when I get there.’  
  
8However, the Centurion said:  
  
 ‘Sir, I’m unfit to have you enter my house… Just say the word and I know that he will be healed. 9For I’m also a man who’s been given a lot of authority, because I have many soldiers under me. So if I tell this one, Be on your way, he’s on his way; if I say to another, Come, he comes. So, whatever I tell my slave to do, he does.’  
  
10Well, Jesus was amazed at this, and he said this to those who were following him:  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth: I haven’t found anyone in IsraEl with this much faith!  
  
 11‘So I’m saying this:  
  
 ‘Many will be coming from the sunrise to the sunset, and they’ll recline [at the table] along with AbraHam, IsaAc, and Jacob in the Kingdom of [God], 12while the Sons of the Kingdom will be thrown outside into the darkness, where they’ll cry and grind their teeth.’  
  
13Then Jesus said to the Centurion:  
  
 ‘Just go on… Let it be just as you’ve believed!’  
  
And the man’s [house]boy was healed in that very hour.  
  
  
14Well, when he finally arrived at Peter’s house, Jesus saw [Peter’s] mother-in-law lying down, because she had a fever. 15So he touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then, she got up and started serving him.  
  
16Then later that evening, people started bringing him many of the demon-possessed. So he cast out the spirits with [just] a word, and he cured all of those who were ill, 17so that the words that were spoken through the Prophet IsaiAh could be fulfilled:  
  
 ‘He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.’ [Isaiah 53:4]  
  
18However, when Jesus saw that a huge crowd had started to form, he said to [his disciples]:  
  
 ‘Let’s go over to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee].’  
  
19But [as they were leaving], a scribe came up to him and said:  
  
 ‘Teacher, I’ll follow you wherever you go!’  
  
20And Jesus said to him:  
  
 ‘Although foxes have burrows and birds in the skies have their nests,  
 The Son of Man has no place to lay his head.’  
  
21Then another disciple came up to him and said:  
  
 ‘Lord, please allow me to go and bury my father first.’  
  
22But Jesus said to him:  
  
 ‘Just keep on following me and let the dead bury their own dead.’  
  
23Well after that, Jesus and his disciples stepped into a boat and left. 24But soon, {Look!} the sea became agitated and waves started crashing over the boat… Yet, [Jesus] was just lying there sleeping. 25So [the disciples] went over and woke him up, and said:  
  
 ‘Lord, please save us, for we’re about to be destroyed!’  
  
26But [Jesus] asked:  
  
 ‘Why are you so afraid… You with so little faith?’  
  
Then he got up and scolded the winds and the sea, and a great calm set in, 27which caused the [disciples] to start wondering and asking each other:  
  
 ‘What kind of person is this? For even the winds and the seas obey him!’  
  
28Well, when they got to the other side [of the sea], into the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men came out from among the tombs to meet him. They were so unusually fierce that no one else had the courage to even pass that way.  
  
29Then {Look!} they started shouting:  
  
 ‘What do you want with us, O Son of God? Did you come here before the appointed time to torment us?’  
  
30Well, it so happened that at the time, there happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding [in a field] some distance away. 31So the demons started begging [Jesus], saying:  
  
 ‘If you’re going to cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs!’  
  
32And [Jesus] said to them:  
  
 ‘Then go!’  
  
So they came out and went into the pigs, and {Look!} the entire herd ran down a steep cliff into the sea, where they [drowned] in the water.  
  
33Well after that happened, the people who’d been keeping watch over the pigs in the field ran away. And when they got to the city, they told everyone about the things that they saw… Including what [Jesus had done] to the demon-possessed men.  
  
34So {Look!} all the people in the city then came out to meet Jesus. However, when they saw him, they begged him to just cross back [over the sea] and leave their district.