

## **Matthew 8:18-34**

### **The Would-Be Followers of Jesus (18-22)**

- ◆ When Jesus noticed the crowd around him, he ordered his disciples to go to the other side of the lake. A teacher of the Law came to him. “Teacher,” he said, “I am ready to go with you wherever you go.” Jesus answered him, “Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down and rest.” Another man, who was a disciple, said, “Sir, first let me go back and bury my father.” “Follow me,” Jesus answered, “and let the dead bury their own dead.”
- ◆ These verses are vague for me.
- ◆ I see a teacher of the law who’s asking to be a disciple of Christ but it seems he is being told it’s not his place. Then a disciple who wants to bury his father but is told to follow Christ and let the dead bury their own dead. Is the lesson here saying everything has its own place? What is it saying about family responsibilities vs Christ?

### **Jesus Calms a Storm (23-27)**

- ◆ Jesus got into a boat, and his disciples went with him. Suddenly a fierce storm hit the lake, and the boat was in danger of sinking. But Jesus was asleep. The disciples went to him and woke him up. “Save us, Lord!” they said. “We are about to die!” “Why are you so frightened?” Jesus answered. “What little faith you have!” Then he got up and ordered the winds and the waves to stop, and there was a great calm. Everyone was amazed. “What kind of man is this?” they said. “Even the winds and the waves obey him!”
- ◆ Christ exhibited his authority by calming the winds and waves, it left the disciples in awe. This is a man of great authority, even up to today I’m also left in awe and I do believe in Christ more.
- ◆ Storms are a part of our lives, we don’t like or want them but they are there and they serve a purpose. When we’re facing a storm let’s not panic but let’s call to the Lord and he’ll calm the storms for us. As I said before that storms serve a purpose, let’s endure and overcome them and we’ll learn the purpose they serve in our lives.

### **Jesus Heals Two Men with Demons (28-34)**

- ◆ When Jesus came to the territory of Gadara on the other side of the lake, he was met by two men who came out of the burial caves there. These men had demons in them and were so fierce that no one dared travel on that road. At once they screamed, “What do you want with us, you Son of God? Have you come to punish us before the right time?” Not far away there was a large herd of pigs feeding. So the demons begged Jesus, “If you are going to drive us out, send us into that herd of pigs.” “Go,” Jesus told them; so they left and went off into the pigs. The whole herd rushed down the side of the cliff into the lake and was drowned. The men who had been taking care of the pigs ran away and went into the town, where they told the whole story and what had happened to the men with the demons. So everyone from the

town went out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their territory.

- ◆ The demons recognised Jesus as the son of God. The demons know that there is a time for judgement. The Lord was power over the demons. How great is Christ the son of God.
- ◆ The inhabitants of the town begged him to leave their city because of what had happened. Their reasons maybe fear of Christ, anger because of dead pigs, and any other but they lost out on the light that was shining on them.

**In the verses above I see the authority of Christ the son of God, he calmed the storm, was recognised and dreaded by demons and he cast the demons out. With all this knowledge I'm amazed and I even believe more in Christ. How great then is our God? If we allow Christ to abide in us we can overcome and live well.**