
The application...

1. What do these incidents reveal about the world in which you live?
2. What does Jesus' intervention prove about His identity? And why is it so important to establish this?
3. How have these incidents helped you to recognize Jesus' identity? And what would the right response be to Jesus?
4. Who are the beneficiaries of Jesus' intervention? Why is this important? And who surprisingly will be excluded? Why?
5. How are the words Jesus taught (5:1-7:27) confirmed by His works? How does this establish the right response to make towards Jesus?

The King's authority

Studies in Matthew's Gospel 8-10



1

The King's authority over sickness *Matthew 8: 1-17*

Matthew recorded King Jesus' speech that He delivered to the crowds on the mountainside. This is the most profound teaching ever delivered and is popularly known as "The Sermon on the Mount" (5:1-7:27) in which Jesus explained the life that must be lived by everyone who follows Him.

The story...

Matthew concludes Jesus' teaching by recording the response of the crowds to His teaching; for what distinguished Jesus from all others was that He taught with authority – His own authority (7:28-29). Matthew then records various incidents in Jesus' life that confirm His authority by displaying His true credentials. And Jesus' popularity is seen by the large crowds that follow Him (1). What did they expect to hear and see?

The first encounter Jesus has is with a leper (2-4).

1. What does the leper's request reveal?

2. What does his posture indicate?

3. How does Jesus respond to the leper's request?

4. What does the leper's immediate healing prove?

The second encounter Jesus has is with a Roman centurion, an officer appointed with authority over 100 soldiers (5-13).

5. What does the centurion's request reveal?

6. How does Jesus respond to his request?

7. Why does the centurion feel that it's unnecessary for Jesus to be present to heal his servant?

8. Why does Jesus commend the centurion? What does he understand?

9. What truth does Jesus teach as an outcome of the centurion's response?

The third encounter Jesus has is with Peter's mother-in-law (14-15).

10. While no request is made for Jesus' intervention, nevertheless what does the outcome prove?

The fourth encounter Jesus has is with demon-possessed people (16-17).

11. How does Jesus liberate people who are demon-possessed?

12. What does the Old Testament quote from the prophet Isaiah establish about Jesus' identity?

The conclusion...

All the people in these stories would have been classified as outsiders of some description, yet Jesus engages with them. And while Matthew doesn't record whether they follow Jesus or not (is it to be assumed?), these incidents confirm Jesus' authority; for His mission is to reverse the dreadful effects of sin. So then what vital lesson is learnt from Jesus' interaction with those who would have been considered as outsiders?