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## The application...

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1. What does it prove about Jesus when even the wind and the waves obey His voice? So how does this impact your view of Him?
  - a. Why do you have confidence to follow Jesus?
  - b. Why must you count the cost to following Jesus?
  
2. What will it look like in your life when you assign the highest priority to following Jesus?
  - a. What will it look like in your life to follow Jesus wherever He goes?
  - b. What compromises giving Him top priority?
  - c. How much of a priority is following Jesus really?
  
3. The disciples' desperate plea was for Jesus to save them from death by drowning. Now understanding the response they should have made, what is required for Jesus to save you from death caused by sin?

## *The King's authority*

*Studies in Matthew's Gospel 8-10*



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## *The King's authority over creation* *Matthew 8:18-27*

Jesus clearly established His authority over sickness by healing the sick. And sickness is collateral damage caused by sin – the debilitating result of sin's presence that entered the world when Adam and Eve rebelled against God's authority in the Garden of Eden. So by healing sickness and exorcising demons, Jesus proves that He possesses authority over them. Matthew then shows that Jesus fulfils the Old Testament expectations of the prophet Isaiah (53:4) to remove sin's consequences, confirming His divine identity.

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## The story...

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**Now in response to Jesus' works that confirm His authority (2-16), responses are made about following Him. Matthew records the responses two people make about following Jesus (18-22). The first response comes from the lips of an unnamed Jewish religious leader (19-20).**

1. What does this man promise Jesus? And what most likely led him to make this extravagant promise?

2. What does Jesus' response to him expose? How does this address his promise to follow Jesus "wherever you go"?

**The second response about following Jesus is made by an anonymous disciple; by contrast to the Jewish religious leader, he is an insider (21-23).**

3. Why was his response flawed? What gives it away?
4. Again, what does Jesus' response expose?
5. Jesus had given instructions to cross to the other side of the lake (18). So what does it indicate when the disciples get into the boat with Jesus?

**Matthew connects the life-threatening incident the disciples faced to the initial responses made about following Jesus to show what it really means to follow Him. The furious storm sparks the crisis (24-27).**

6. What does it reveal about Jesus that He sleeps through the life-threatening storm undeterred?
7. What does the desperate appeal of the disciples to Jesus reveal about Him and them?

8. Why does Jesus rebuke the disciples? How does this reveal the response that they should have made? (Now compare their response to that of the Roman centurion [5-13]).

9. How does Jesus eliminate the threat to their lives? And what does this conclusively establish?

10. What does the disciples' response reveal when complete calm is restored after the life-threatening storm?

- a. What did it expose?
- b. Who is Jesus?
- c. And what is the right response to Him?

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## **The conclusion...**

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It is rather striking that Matthew doesn't attempt any cover-up the faithless response of the disciples in midst of the life-threatening storm. Commendably, he is brutally honest as he records the incident. Instead he tells exactly what happened because it shows what is required to follow Jesus. So do you still want to follow Jesus?