Matthew 8:18-34

- **Review…**
  - FIRST - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
  - SECOND – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
  - The untouchable…
    - AFTER completing the Sermon of the KING [Sermon on the Mount]
    - A Leper met Jesus on the way down the mountain – believed Jesus could HEAL him…
    - Jesus TOUCHED the untouchable – and make Him CLEAN!
  - The unlovable…
    - As soon as Jesus came into the city – a Centurion [Roman soldier] met him…
    - He believed Jesus could heal his servant [Jew] with just a word [authority]
    - Jesus MARVELED at his GREAT faith – not seen in ALL of Israel…
    - And Jesus gave the word – and HEALED the unlovable!
  - Family…
    - Jesus came into the house of Peter – and his mother in law was sick with a high fever…
    - He TOUCHED her – and her fever left – and she ministered to the disciples…
    - Because Jesus came to HEAL us SPIRITUALLY – **Isaiah 53:4**
- **1st – Count the cost… vs. 18-22**
  - 1st – The Command… vs. 18
    - When Jesus saw great multitudes about Him - He gave a command to depart to the other side!
    - Healing the UNTOUCHABLE – UNLOVABLE – and FAMILY…
    - Made Jesus VERY popular – VERY quickly – and LARGE [πολύς] crowds began to follow Him…
    - But Jesus was NOT after the NUMBERS – He was looking for DISCIPLES…
    - Therefore He gave the COMMAND – to LEAVE and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee…
    - Because Jesus wanted to see who was really willing to FOLLOW Him!
    - There is an unfortunate trend within Christianity…
    - The church has adopted an overly simplistic view of church growth based strictly on numbers…
    - The more seats that are filled on a Sunday morning – the better the church is doing…
    - But God is not looking for people to SIT – He is looking for people to FOLLOW!
  - 2nd – No home… vs. 19-20

- Following Jesus… vs. 19
  - Then a certain scribe came and said to Him: Teacher - I will follow You wherever You go!
  - FIRST to offer to FOLLOW [future] – no matter where Jesus went – was a SCRIBE…
  - SCRIBE [γραμματεύς] – a highly educated – most likely wealthy individual!
  - One might imagine that he lived in a very NICE home – comfortable lifestyle…
  - And the problem was – he had NOT counted the COST to follow Jesus…
  - So the Lord wanted to make sure he knew what he was getting into!
- No bed… vs. 20
  - Jesus said to him: Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests.
  - But the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head!
  - Jesus said [present] – and is still saying to anyone who wants to FOLLOW Him…
  - Foxes have a HOME [hole] – and birds have a HOME [nest]
  - But the Son of Man - [first time this is used in the NT]
  - TITLE used 78x in the Gospels – emphasizing Jesus time here as a man [Immanuel]
  - Jesus did NOT have a HOME on earth – so those who FOLLOW Him – also have no HOME!
  - Jen and I have lived in our current rental house for FOUR years…
  - That actually marks the LONGEST time we have been in the same HOME since we got married!
  - FOLLOWING Jesus means we are MOBILE – we are FLEXIBLE…
  - We are willing to go ANYWHERE at ANYTIME – at His COMMAND…
  - It means we do NOT hold onto a PLACE – we are not bound to our POSSESSIONS…
  - Because this is not our HOME – our HOME is a place we have yet to see!
  - **Hebrews 11:13-14** – "[Confessing we are] strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland… a better heavenly [home]!"

3rd – No Family… vs. 21-22

- Family first… vs. 21
  - Then another of His disciples said to Him: Lord - let me first go and bury my father.
  - ANOTHER [ἕτερος] – man offered to FOLLOW Jesus…
  - There are TWO Greek for ANOTHER - [ἄλλος] same kind - [ἕτερος] – different kind…
  - This man was NOT like the wealthy SCRIBE – he was a DISCIPLE [μαθητής]
  - He even called Jesus – Master [κύριος] – wiling to submit to His authority…
  - BUT – he demanded [imperative] to FIRST go and BURY his Father!
  - This does NOT mean that his father was DEAD and needed to be buried [aorist infinitive]
  - It means he wanted to be with his Father until he DIED [not sure when]!
- Follow me… vs. 22
  - Jesus said to him: Follow Me!
  - In response Jesus had a simple command - FOLLOW Me [imperative]
  - Because to FOLLOW Jesus – He must be FIRST - even before FAMILY!
  - **Luke 14:26** – "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother - wife and children - brothers and sisters – yes - and his own life also - he cannot be My disciple."
  - That does NOT mean we need to HATE our FAMILY…
  - It means compared to our LOVE for Jesus – our LOVE for anyone else is a distant SECOND!
- The dead… vs. 22
  - Let the dead bury their own dead!
  - But Jesus added - LEAVE [imperative] the [spiritually] dead to bury the dead…

- The response of might seem HARSH to us…
- Yet if the MAN stayed - his father would DIE physically and spiritually…
- But if he FOLLOWED Jesus – then he could bring the Gospel that gives LIFE!
- I number of years ago – a friend asked me about his desire to become a missionary…
- His hesitation was he had a GOOD job – and a NICE house…
- He wondered if it might be unfair to ask his WIFE and KIDS to give that up…
- My question was what do you want to give to your FAMILY…
- And EASY life – or a God who is so worthy – you are willing to give up all to FOLLOW Him!
- The BEST things we give our FAMILY – is to put Jesus FIRST…
- There is no greater BLESSING – than a life dedicated to following Christ!
- **Mark 10:29-30** – "No one who has left house or [family]… for My sake and the gospel - who shall not receive a hundredfold now… and in the age to come - eternal life."

- **2ND – STORMS OF LIFE… VS. 23-27**
  - 1st – Following Jesus… vs. 23-24
    - Into the Boat…
      - And when He got into a boat - His disciples followed Him.
      - AND [Καὶ] when Jesus got into the BOAT – to cross over the Sea of Galilee – **Matthew 8:18**
      - We can see who His DISCIPLES [μαθητής] were – because they FOLLOWED [indicative] Him!
      - It is easy to SAY that we are CHRISTIANS – we FOLLOW Jesus…
      - But the PROOF is in our ACTIONS – when Jesus moves – we go with Him!
    - The Storm…
      - Suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea - so that the boat was covered with the waves!
      - As soon as they were out in the midst of the SEA…
      - A STORM – like a powerful [μέγας] earthquake [σεισμός] rose up…
      - And the little BOAT was quickly covered by the WAVES!
      - The Sea of Galilee is quite small – only about THIRTEEN kilometers across [east to west]
      - But it sits TWO hundred meters below sea level – while Mount Hermon is 2,800 meter high…
      - Cold air sweeps down from the Mountain – hitting the hot air of the Sea – HUGE storms…
      - The little fishing boats [2 meters wide] could quickly become overwhelmed by the waves!
      - FOLLOWING Jesus does NOT mean we will have easily SAILING…
      - As soon as we step out to FOLLOW the Lord – the STORMS hit – **John 16:33**
      - It might be the MONEY is gone – we suddenly get SICK – or fighting in the family…
      - If we chose to FOLLOW the Lord – we are going to go through TRIALS!
      - **I Peter 4:12** – "Beloved - do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you - as though some strange thing happened to you."
  - 2nd – Little Faith… vs. 24-26
    - Sound asleep… vs. 24-25
      - But [Jesus] was asleep.
      - Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him – saying: Lord - save us! We are perishing!
      - The boat is SINKING – the storm is RAGING – but Jesus is SLEEPING [imperfect]
      - And His DISCIPLES [μαθητής] woke Jesus up saying – Lord [κύριος] save us [imperative]!
      - I HATE flying – I am NOT a fan of turbulence…
      - I was on a flight out of New Delhi – we flew right into a thunder storm…
      - As the large 777 plane was being tossed around – the stewardesses were screaming…
      - When the people who are in charge PANIC – that is when you get NERVOUS!
      - Jesus NEVER panics – because He is the MASTER [κύριος]

- And if He is NOT nervous – then no matter what is happening around us…
- We also can have perfect PEACE – knowing Jesus is with us – and He is in CONTROL…
- We may not know HOW He will take care of it – but we can TRUST He will!
- **Philippians 4:7** – "The peace of God - which surpasses all understanding - will guard your hearts and minds."

▪ Do not Fear… vs. 26

- But [Jesus] said to them: Why are you fearful - O you of little faith?
- Jesus asked the DISCIPLES – why were they AFRAID [indicative]
- The answer would seem to be OBVIOUS – because they were about to DIE…
- But Jesus instead told them – you of LITTLE faith [ὀλιγό πιστος] – 4x in Matthew!
- The DISCIPLES were trusting in their STRENGTH to row across a STORMY sea…
- And because they put their TRUST in the wrong place – it was LITTLE faith…
- What they should have put their TRUST in was the WORD of God…
- Jesus told them – they were going to the OTHER side – **Matthew 8:18**
- When we FOLLOW Jesus – and end up in a TRIAL…
- Remember it does NOT matter what the STORM looks like – the WAVES might be HUGE…
- And if we look to our STRENGTH to get us out of the STORM – we will be AFRAID…
- But if we look to the WORD – what God said – we will have PEACE!
- **II Corinthians 1:20** – "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes - and in Him Amen."

○ 3rd – Power over Nature… vs. 26-27

▪ Great calm… vs. 26

- Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea - and there was a great calm!
- Jesus stood up and REBUKED the wind and sea – and the STORM stopped…
- Because the STORM was not in control – Jesus is the MASTER [κύριος]!
- We serve a God – who created the UNIVERSE with a WORD – **Genesis 1:1**
- There is NOTHING that is impossible for Him – **Luke 1:37**
- Our CIRCUMSTANCES [wind and waves] obey His COMMAND…
- He is the one who ALLOWS them to come – and He is the one who can stop them!

▪ Amazed… vs. 27

- So the men marveled – saying: Who can this be - that even the winds and the sea obey Him?
- The MEN were AMAZED – who is this that WIND and WAVES obey Him…
- But the ONLY reason they saw the POWER of Jesus – is because they were in the STORM…
- And the ONLY reason they were in the STORM – is because they FOLLOWED Jesus!
- If I told you it was possible to pick up half MILLION kilograms – what would you say...
- And said it can fly 20 thousand kilometers - at 900 kph - at over 10 thousand meters…
- With over 500 people comfortably seated inside – what would you say...
- You would believe me – but only because you have seen an airplane…
- But if you had never seen one before – you would say it was impossible!
- Many people have never experienced the POWER of God…
- The reason is because they have not chosen to FOLLOW Jesus…
- It is only in the STORMS of life – that we get to see God is greater than the STORM…
- It is only in the TRIALS – that we get to see that God can do the IMPOSSIBLE!

- **3rd – No Compromise… vs. 28-34**

○ 1st – The other side… vs. 28

▪ Gergesenes…

- When He had come to the other side - to the country of the Gergesenes!
- The area on the east side of the Sea of Galilee – was called the Decapolis [10 cities]
- The name Gergesenes come from the Hebrew [גִּרְגָּשִׁי]
- Gergishites were the original Canaanite [pagan] dwellers of that area...
- They were supposed to have been CAST out by Israel – **Deuteronomy 7:1**
- When the TWELVE tribes of Israel came with Joshua to conquer the land of Canaan...
- The tribes of Reuben – Gad – and HALF tribe of Manasseh settled the area of the Gadarenes...
- These THREE tribes decided NOT to enter into the Promised Land – **Numbers 32:5**
- They were CONTENT to settle in the lands EAST of the Jordan river...
- They were also the FIRST of the TWELVE tribes to be conquered!
- When people live on the FENCE – one foot in the WORLD and one in JESUS…
- They are in a VERY dangerous place – because it is too easy to fall off on the wrong side…
- Rather than being known by Christ – we will be labeled as part of the world [Gergesenes]
- We do NOT want to live on the edge – come into the PROMISED Land!

▪ Demon possessed…

- There met Him two demon-possessed men - coming out of the tombs.
- Exceedingly fierce - so that no one could pass that way!
- When Jesus arrived – TWO [only here] men came to CONFRONT [hostile] Him…
- They were DEMON possessed men – also **Mark 5:1-20** and **Luke 8:26-39**
- Naked – dwelling in the tombs – no one could control them…
- FIERCE [χαλεπός] – 2x in NT – to be VERY dangerous – **II Timothy 3:1**
- They had been bound hand and foot – but they could break the chains…
- Their name was LEGION – referring to 6000 soldiers – VERY possessed!
- We do NOT talk about demon possession much today…
- I think as a society – we have come to a place where we rationalize it…
- We talk about people being CRAZY – but do not consider the root cause might be SPIRITUAL!

○ 2nd – Power of all… vs. 29-32

▪ Son of God… vs. 29

- Behold they cried out – saying: What have we to do with You – Jesus - You Son of God?
- Have You come here to torment us before the time!
- BEHOLD [imperative] – they screamed – why are You here Jesus Son of God…
- They wanted to know if He came to PUNISH them before the TIME…
- They knew WHO Jesus was – and knew WHAT He would do to them one day!
- Demons are FALLEN angles – who rebelled along with satan against God - **Revelation 12:4**
- As a result God cast them out of heaven - they were banished to the earth...
- But there is a final judgment that awaits these fallen angels - **Jude 1:6**
- When they will be cast into the Lake of Fire prepared for them - **Matthew 25:41**

▪ Herd of pigs… vs. 30-31

- Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding.
- The demons begged Him saying: If You cast us out permit us to go into the herd of swine!
- Off in the distance there were [imperfect] a herd of many PIGS…
- The demons pleaded [imperfect] with Jesus – demanding [imperative] to be sent into swine!
- PIGS are a forbidden animals for Jews to eat – **Leviticus 11:7**
- Further evidence of the compromised walk of the Jews in the Gergesenes…
- A symptom of a people far from God – where EVIL [demons] felt welcome!
- If we look at a WICKED world around us – and wonder what we can do…

- And answer is to NOT be compromised – live for the Lord…
- Because just as DARKNESS is not welcome when there is LIGHT…
- So also EVIL [demons] has to flee when once Jesus enters!

- Cleaning up… vs. 32
  - He said to them: Go! So when they had come out - they went into the herd of swine.
  - Suddenly the whole herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea and perished!
  - Jesus gave them one WORD – He commanded [imperative] the demons to GO…
  - They came out of the MEN – and went into the PIGS [over 2000] – **Mark 5:13**
  - And the PIGS ran off a steep cliff – into the water – and ALL [πᾶς] drown…
  - Jesus got rid of the DEMONS and PIGS with one WORD!
  - It is NOT just WIND and WAVES Jesus has authority over…
  - He has power over ALL – we have NOTHING to FEAR from the supernatural…
  - And when we FOLLOW Jesus – we will see the ENEMY flee…
  - We will see a COMPROMISED world – become CLEAN because of His WORD!
  - **Luke 10:19** – "Behold - I give you the authority… over all the power of the enemy."

- 3rd – Rejecting Jesus… vs. 33-34

  - Set free… vs. 33
    - Then those who kept them fled - and they went away into the city and told everything.
    - Including what had happened to the demon-possessed men!
    - The MEN who were watching the PIGS – ran for their lives [terrified]
    - And when they got to the CITY – they told the people EVERYTHING [πᾶς]
    - Including what had happened to the POSSESSED men – whom everyone knew!
    - **Luke 8:35** – "Sitting at the feet of Jesus - clothed and in his right mind."

  - Not ready… vs. 34
    - Behold - the whole city came out to meet Jesus.
    - And when they saw Him - they begged Him to depart from their region!
    - The WHOLE [πᾶς] city came out to see for themselves…
    - But when they saw Jesus – they pleaded with Him to leave [subjunctive]
    - The men who had been possessed – wanted to go with Him but Jesus told him no!
    - **Mark 5:19** – "Go home to your friends - and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."
    - Jesus would return to this area – He was not finished with them…
    - And when He returned – it was to a VERY different reception…
    - Because of the TESTIMONY of the man who had been possessed…
    - The people were EXCITED – and rushed to come see Jesus – **Matthew 14:35**
    - We are called to FOLLOW Jesus – put Him FIRST…
    - Because that is the ONLY place where we will see God do the IMPOSSIBLE…
    - And once we SEE what Jesus can do – we NEED to tell others...
    - Because even though some may NOT receive Jesus today…
    - As they see the change in our lives – they will one day be excited to see the Lord!