

# Matthew 8:18-34

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- **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**
- **1<sup>ST</sup> – COUNT THE COST... vs. 18-22**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 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!**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – 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 [γραμματεὺς] – 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]!”

o 3<sup>rd</sup> – 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] – willing 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.”

● 2<sup>ND</sup> – STORMS OF LIFE... vs. 23-27

o 1<sup>st</sup> – 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 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.”
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> – 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.”
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> – 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!
- 3<sup>RD</sup> – No COMPROMISE... vs. 28-34
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 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 [גרְגֵסֵנִי]
      - 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!
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> – 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 [παῖς] 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.”
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> – 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 [παῖς]
    - 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!