

**“The Liabilities in Failing to Discern  
Jesus’ Power and Authority in Healing and Teaching”**  
(Matthew 8:1-13)

**I. Jesus’ teaching, preaching and healing testified to His power and authority.**

Matthew 4:23-25; Acts 10:36-39

- a. His authority in teaching
  - 1. John 12:49
  - 2. The spiritual emptiness in the teaching of scribes and Pharisees
- b. His power in healing
  - Demons and diseases could only obey
- c. All you could do was to be amazed
  - What *amazement* looked like

**II. Jesus cleanses a leper**

- a. Leviticus and the *law* of leprosy
  - Lev. 13:45-46
- b. Trench: Consider the ‘living death’ of leprosy
- c. NOTE: The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to spiritual lepers
- d. The instruction to say nothing to anyone
  - Mark 1:45ff

**III. Jesus’ challenge to a centurion**

- a. Is Jesus asking a deliberative rhetorical question?
  - “I having come will heal him”?
- b. Did he recognize the consequences accompanying his request?
- c. How worthy are you?
- d. The centurion’s protest solidifies the level of his faith

**IV. Jesus’ challenge to the crowd: “... nowhere in Israel...”**

- a. John the Baptist? (Mt. 11:2-5)
- b. Mary and Joseph? (Luke 2:43)
- c. The terrible warning about choosing unbelief

**V. The dark side of unbelief**

- a. The weeping and the gnashing of teeth
- b. The reminder of the narrow gate proverb?
- c. Choose the invitation into the hospitality of our God

**VI. Jesus was amazed *only* twice**

- a. The mathematical mind of a savant
- b. Mark 6:1-6 The offense of the crowds’ astonishment
- c. "In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't believe." - Pascal