

Matthew #1 (8:1 - 10)

I. Let us Begin with some Introductory Material on Matthew

A. Matthew, Mark, Luke- "Synoptic Gospels" - "to see together"

1. Hard to tell if any are primarily chronological (all are to some extent)
2. Matthew appears not to be chronological (Matt. 4:23; 9:35)
 - a. Have Jesus teaching and preaching (chp 5-7) then healing (8, 9)
 1. Order: 3 sets of 3 miracles with teaching separating them
 - a. 1-17-Leper, Paralytic, Fever (teaching on discipleship(18-22)
 - b. 23-9:8-Sea,demoniac,paralytic-Teaching on Kingdom(9-17)
 - c. 9:18-34-Ruler's Daughter/Issue of blood- 2 blind men, demoniac with teaching following
 - d. Some see 10 miracles that mirror the 10 plagues in Egypt

B. There is a purpose to be seen in these miracles of Jesus

1. Some think they are pattern for us- John 14:12; Mark 16:17, 18
 - a. But we do not have these kinds of powers
2. The healings were illustrations of teaching of Jesus and His mission
 - a. 8:17- Mark 2:10 - Showed His compassion- Heb. 4:15; Mk 1:41
 - b. Teach of Christ's compassion - Hebrews 4:15
3. Also were proof of His Messiahship- Ps. 72:7; Acts 10:38

II. Then Let us Look at the Cleansing of the Leper (Verse 1-4)

A. Leprosy looked at in those days as incurable disease- 2 Kings 5:6, 7

1. Leper had to live in isolation from others- Lev. 13:46 - Luke 17:12
2. 1st words in v. 2 "And behold" draw attention to greatness- Matt. 11:5

B. We see in this story the faith of this leper (Lu. 5:12- "Full of leprosy")

1. V. 2- "Worshipped" and addressed Christ as "Lord"
 - a. All saying this in Matthew believe in Christ;15:22; 17:15; 20:30, 31
2. Heb. 11:6-Must believe God is a rewarder- "If Thou will Thou canst"

C. V. 3- Jesus touches Him- In law this would make Him unclean- Lev. 5:3

1. Instead of being defiled- He cleanses leper! (Hab. 2:12, 13)

D. V. 3- Leprosy spoken of as "cleansed" not as "healed" (Comp. vs. 7, 8)

1. Jesus says "I will" - but He never says "I will not" (follows 5:42)

E. V. 4- Tells leper to be silent about miracle- doesn't want mob growing

1. Must obey Christ in speaking of Him or in being silent (Mk. 1:45)

F. V. 4- As testimony to Priest-He would pronounce leper clean- Lev. 14

III. Let Us Look at the Spiritual Lessons of this Story

A. This miracle involving leprosy has spiritual lessons for us-regarding sin

1. Leprosy like sin renders a person unclean- Numbers12:9-12
2. Totally unclean-(Depravity) Caused body deterioration- I Cor. 15:53
3. Like sin had no human cure and only led to death- Rom. 6:23
4. Of all disease perhaps vilest-I Tim. 1:15- separates us from others
5. Man wasn't leper because he had sores-Not sinners because we sin

B. This miracle also shows the gospel- Christ in His mercy to sinners

1. Like incarnation come down from mountain to touch people-Hb 2:14.
2. Like the miracle in this story - order is reversed - Touch makes unclean clean - 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13
3. Christ says "I will" - It is will of God that brings healing- Rom. 9:15,16