

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Sunday Sermon

Date: February 7, 2021

Text: Matthew 8:1-18

Scripture Reading: Matthew 8:1-18

Subject: Jesus heals three people

In the preceding message from Matthew 7:15-29, we considered:

1. Our Lord's warning to his disciples that we beware of false prophets. We know that false teachers will be among us. But, like we can know a tree by its fruit, we shall also know the false prophets by their fruits.

2. That many shall say to the LORD in that day that they have prophesied in his name; have done many wonderful works in His name; and have cast out devils in His name, but he will profess unto them "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. We understood these are professing Christians. They are not Buddhists, Muslims, Taoists, or Hindus, but they profess to be followers of Jesus Christ, but are not his children.

3. Jesus' words about building our lives on his sayings – that is, on his words. We considered that the writings of the apostles which compose the New Testament are the words of the LORD. If we build our lives on the Words of our Lord, then it is like a wise man who builded his house on a rock so that the storms and winds could not move that life because it was founded on a rock. We also saw his warning about those who build their lives on the sand. These are lives build on the thoughts, philosophies and ideas of the world which are all opposed to the word of God. The storms will come and sweep these lives away and their fall shall be great.

Let us now proceed to chapter 8, verses 1 through 18. In these verses, we shall see our Lord healing three different people; a leper; the centurion's servant with palsy; and Peter's mother in law's fever.

Matthew 8:1 (KJV) *When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.*

Jesus had gone up into the mountain and called his disciples. There he had sat down and taught them in the Sermon on the Mount. Now he came down from the mountain and great multitudes followed him.

Matthew 8:2-4 (KJV) *And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed 4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.*

Both Mark and Luke give us the account of this leper coming to the LORD. Let's consider them so we get a full picture.

Mark 1:40-45 (KJV) *And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. 42 And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed. 43 And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away; 44 And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. 45 But he went out,*

and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

Luke 5:12-14 (KJV) *And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. **13** And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. **14** And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.*

And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, -- Mark and Luke tell us the leper kneeled, falling on his face before the LORD – this is a clear attitude of worship. This man had a horrible disease – leprosy. In the New Testament record, we shall see Jesus healing many lepers. As you know, there was and still is not a cure for leprosy. Leprosy is a type of sin. God alone can cure leprosy and forgive sin.

The appearance of leprosy is not always the same, but it commonly resembles the spot made by the puncture of a pin, or it looks like a ring-worm. The spots commonly exhibit themselves, at first, on the face, about the nose and eyes, and increase in size till they become as large as a pea or a bean. There are three kinds of leprosy, distinguished by the appearance of the spots--the white, the black, and the red leprosy. These spots, though few at first, gradually spread till they cover the whole body. But though the appearance of the disease is at first in the skin, yet it is deeply seated in the bones, and marrow, and joints of the body. A leprous person may

live twenty, or thirty, or even fifty years, if he received the disease at his birth, but they will be years of indescribable misery. The bones and marrow are pervaded with the disease. The leprosy advances, from one stage to another, with slow and certain ruin. "Life still lingers amidst the desolation;" the joints, and hands, and feet, lose their power; and the body collapses, or falls together, in a form hideous and awful. There is a form of the disease in which it commences at the extremities: the joints separate; the fingers, toes, and other members, one by one, fall off; and the disease thus gradually approaches the seat of life. The wretched victim is thus doomed to see himself dying *piece-meal*, assured that no human power can stop it or heal it. This disease is contagious and hereditary.

Saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. -- This poor man was fully assured of Jesus' power, that he could make him clean and entirely rid him of his leprosy. So he humbly submits it to his will. It is the very same way with sensible sinners (those who the LORD has quickened) when the LORD shows them their sin before God. They can believe in the power of Christ to justify them by his righteousness, cleanse them by his blood; and save them by his grace to the uttermost. Some of us seemingly hesitated about the Lord's willingness to forgive and save us because of our own vileness and unworthiness – but, Glory to God, he did save us who believed in Him!

And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed O, the blessedness! The leper's spots were immediately cleansed. Likewise, our Lord gives the seeking sinner instant cleansing and forgiveness of his sins.

Romans 10:13-14 (KJV) *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

Matthew 8:5 (KJV) *And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, 6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. 7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. 8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. 9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*

In reading both accounts from Matthew and Luke, we see that Jesus has come to Capernaum. The centurion besought him for his servant with the palsy who was grievously tormented. First, we find according to Luke's account that the centurion sent the elders of the Jews to Jesus who plead with Jesus for the centurion and his sick servant. Then Jesus met the centurion who said, "Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am ALSO a man under authority, as Luke's account tells us...etc. There can be no doubt that this centurion knew that Jesus was the son of God who came to do the will of his Father. The centurion was a Roman soldier and a gentile. This is the reason for Jesus's words in the next two verses.

Matthew 8:11 (KJV) *And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.*

Many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. This shows us that God shall call a great multitude which no man can number out of very people, kindred, nation and tongue to be in His kingdom. These will all be gentiles just as the Roman Centurion was a gentile. All of these gentiles shall sit down in the kingdom with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the Israelites who are of the believing remnant and are in the Lord's churches. Look at this marvelous host of the redeemed which the Apostle John saw as he was caught up to heaven to write the Revelation.

Revelation 7:9-10 (KJV) *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*

Matthew 8:12 (KJV) *But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

This is a great warning to the religionists Jews who are called the children of the kingdom. These religious, but unsaved Jews, were looking for a temporal king to take them out from under the iron yoke of the Roman Empire. They later as a nation refused Jesus. In just a few short years after these words were spoken, a powerful prince of Rome came his armies and besieged Jerusalem, killed, captured and scattered all of the people. This occurred in 70 A. D.

Because of their rejection of Jesus, the unbelieving Jews shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 8:13 (KJV) *And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*

What a blessing it was when the centurion arrived home to find that his servant had been healed by the word of Jesus. Jesus had earlier touched the man with leprosy, but his word was sufficient to heal this servant of the Roman Centurion.

Luke also recorded the healing of the centurion's servant. Let's read it and compare it with Matthew's account:

Luke 7:1-10 (KJV) *Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. 2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. 3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: 5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue. 6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof: 7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. 8 For I **also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 9 When Jesus heard these things, he***

*marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. **10** And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.*

Matthew 8:14-15 (KJV) *And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. **15** And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.*

And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. – We know that Jesus had come into Capernaum, but there is nothing in the biblical record to tell us when exactly he had gone into the synagogue. Mark and Luke both mention him coming from the synagogue and coming to Peter's house. Mark adds that Simon and Andrew lived together, and that James and John went with them to the house. Apparently, it was some of those disciples that told Jesus that Peter's wife's mother was sick, then Jesus saw her. Interesting, isn't it? That Peter, who is wrongfully claimed to be the first pope of the Roman Catholics had a mother-in-law. In other words, he was married. Yet, they forbid their priests to marry. What Blasphemy!

Mark 1:29-31 (KJV) *And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. **30** But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. **31** And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.*

Luke 4:38-39 (KJV) *And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. 39 And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.*

Matthew 8:16 (KJV) *When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:*

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: -- Those who were possessed with devils are the people into whom the evil spirits took possession. As we study on through the New Testament, we shall find several occasions where men, women and young people were possessed with devils.

And he cast out the spirits with his word, -- Jesus' words were enough to dispel the evil spirits from the bodies of those who were possessed by them. Jesus, being Lord and Master of all, the evil spirits had no choice but to obey his word.

And healed all that were sick: -- Sickness causes us to suffer as all of us know. What a blessing it was when the Lord healed all their sick!

Matthew 8:17 (KJV) *That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.*

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, etc. -- [Albert Barnes' Commentary – in part] "This passage is found in [Isa 53:4](#). Our English translation of that

important passage is, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows." The Greek in Matthew is an exact translation of the Hebrew. In the fifty-third chapter, Isaiah fully states the doctrine of atonement, or that the Messiah was to suffer for sin. In the verse quoted here, however, he states the very truth which Matthew declares. The word translated *griefs*, in Isaiah, and *infirmities*, in Matthew, means properly, in the Hebrew and Greek, diseases of the body. In neither does it refer to the disease of the mind, or to sin. To bear those griefs, is clearly to bear them away, or to remove them. This was done by his miraculous power in healing the sick.]

Matthew 8:18 (KJV) *Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.*

Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, -- Our Lord's dispelling the evil spirits and healing the sickness and infirmities of the people was enough to again draw great multitudes of people. We scarcely meet people who do not want to be healed of their physical ailments. We can all understand that.

He gave commandment to depart unto the other side. – That is, he said "Let us go across the Sea of Galilee" for Capernaum was located on the northwest corner of the Sea of Tiberias very near the Sea of Galilee. It is called by both names as well as the lake of Genesareth.

In these first eighteen verses of Matthew 8, we have seen our Lord heal three different persons individually, then healed all the sick who came to him at even time. We saw:

- Jesus put forth his hand, and touched the beseeching leper and healed him immediately. He was completely cleansed of his leprosy.

- Jesus, at the request of a Roman Centurion, healed the Centurion's servant with his words: "Go thy way; and as thou has believed, so be it done unto thee." As the Centurion and those sent by him returned home, they found the servant made whole.
- Jesus left the synagogue and came to Peter's house where he shared the house with his brother Andrew. James and John went in with him. Some of the men told Jesus that Peter's wife's mother was sick of a fever. Jesus touched her hand, lifted her up and the fever left her. She arose and ministered unto them.
- We saw that the healing of the sick was a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy which said, "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. Our Lord showed that he was absolute Lord and master over all physical maladies. We will definitely notice in chapter 10 that Jesus gave the twelve apostles power to "heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out devils." We also find that when Jesus chose and sent forth the other seventy in Luke 10, he gave the power to heal the sick. These extraordinary powers were peculiar to the time of the apostles, but ceased when the New Testament was completed in the first century. The church was never given these powers, but the Apostle James give us instructions about the sick.
 - **James 5:14-16 (KJV)** *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: **15** And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. **16** Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

Please consider this application as we close the message. The man who was a leper came to Jesus falling down before him and beseeching him to

cleanse him of his awful disease. He had leprosy for which there was no cure and a disease for which there is still no cure to this day. Leprosy, in the Holy Scriptures is a type of sin. All of us, naturally speaking, are dead in trespasses and in sins. In other words, we were born sinners and committed sin because we were sinners. We desperately need a cleansing from our sins! The only one who can cleanse us from our sin and forgive us of it is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus bore our sins in his own body on the tree (the cross). All who believe in him have forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved? Have you come to him? Falling down before him and saying as the man with leprosy said: "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." That leper was cleansed – and we too find forgiveness and cleansing in Jesus alone. Have you believed on him and called on His name to forgive you of your sins. Have you been saved by his marvelous mercy and grace? If you have, then confess him as your Lord and Savior – and follow him in baptism. Follow Jesus' steps with others who are in the House of God, His church. Amen!