

Matthew #3 (8:18-22)

Two men come to Jesus to follow Him-Luke's account lists 3 (Luke 9:57-62)

I. Introductory material & comparing and contrasting both encounters

A. This section is break between two groups of miracles (8:1-17; 8:24-9:6)

B. V. 18 - Crowd gathers after miracles so Jesus seeks to go across lake

1. This is opposite of what most churches would do

2. Capernaum on Northwest side of lake- Jesus wants to go to East

C. May seem incongruous for Matthew to have this account here

1. But fits in with theme of authority of Christ and His Deity

D. Let us notice contrasts between these two men who come to Christ

1. Who they are- First is a scribe, second is a disciple

a. Not all disciples in scripture are true disciples - John 6:65, 66

2. First addresses Christ as "teacher" - second one as "Lord"

3. Attitudes- First one is "too ready" - Second one is "not ready"

E. There are also some similarities in these two encounters

1. Both men approach Christ with apparent zeal to follow Him

2. Both receive replies from Christ we might consider discouraging

a. Jesus differs from us - He knows men's hearts- John 2:23-25

3. Not informed in either of their cases, what their response was to this

II. Let us look more in detail at the first encounter

A. This scribe says He will follow Jesus wherever He goes-Ruth 1:16, 17

1. Could mean where He goes now- or wherever He goes in future

B. V. 20 -Jesus' response reminds all that He had no permanent dwelling

1. He began His life with "no room in the inn" - Luke 2:7 and continued

a. John 5:18; John 6:66; Luke 9:53; Matt 27:23, 46

2. He is saying here as elsewhere to count the cost - Luke 14:26-33

C. Man's words to Christ not result of Christ's call (Follow me)

D. Verse 20- First occurrence in New Testament of phrase "Son of Man"

1. Used 31 times in Matthew- always by Christ in reference to Himself

2. "Son of God" found 8 times - always said by others (People, devil)

3. Not just saying He is man (Ps. 8:4) but He is "THE Son of man"

a. Dan.7:13,14 compared with Matthew 26:63, 64

III. Let us look more in detail at the second encounter

A. V. 21 - Second man wants to bury father before He follows Christ

1. We would view this as a reasonable request to make

B. V. 22 - Jesus' response seems harsh in light of 5th commandment

1. Matthew 5:19 - Mark 7:10-13 - Burial looked at as honor to parent

2. Some believe that man's father isn't dead yet- perhaps only sick

a. In Israel they buried a person the day that they died- Act 5:5, 6

3. Jesus doesn't forbid burial- but commands man to preach-Lu. 9:60

4. Burying the dead is something that spiritually dead people can do

a. But only those spiritually alive can preach the gospel

5. Spiritual obligations are the most important - Luke 10:38 - 42

6. Hardest obligations to put to side are family ones- Matt. 10:35-37

7. This command like that to rich young ruler (Mk 10:21) to individual

Conclusion: What is our response to demands of discipleship by Christ?