



THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

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PART 4: THE KING'S POWER

In chapters 5 through 7, we heard Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven coming to earth. In chapters 8 through 9, we see him enacting that kingdom



through deeds of compassion and mercy. He heals an ostracized leper, he has compassion on an officer of the Roman occupying forces, delivers demoniacs, and calms a great storm (Matt. 8:28-9:1). In all these cases, Jesus gives clear evidence that he truly is the Messiah. But do the Pharisees recognize this?

MATTHEW CHAPTERS 8 AND 9

- Jesus cleanses the leper (8:1-4)
- The faith of a centurion (8:5-13)
- Jesus heals Mary (8:14-17)
- The cost of following Jesus (8:18-22)
- Jesus calms the storm (8:23-27)
- Jesus heals two men with demons (8:28-34)
- Jesus heals a paralytic (9:1-8)
- Jesus calls Matthew (9:9-13)
- Jesus answers a question about fasting (9:14-17)
- A girl restored to life and a woman healed (9:18-26)
- Jesus heals two blind men (9:27-31)
- Jesus heals a man unable to speak (9:32-34)
- The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few (9:35-36)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) In the previous chapter (7), Jesus performed no miracles. Why then do you suppose large crowds were following him (8:!)?

2) With what attitude and beliefs did the centurion approach Jesus (8:5-13)?

3) What was it that drew the father of the dead daughter (8:18), and the woman with a bleeding issue (8:20-21) to Jesus? How did Jesus respond?

4) In Matthew 8:4 and 9:30, Jesus instructs those he healed not to tell anybody about it. Why do you suppose he did this? (Hint: see <https://www.gotquestions.org/Messianic-secret.html>).



5) What impresses you most about Matthew's response to Jesus' invitation (9:9)?

6) With whom did Jesus eat a meal in 9:10-13? How does this relate to those in today's culture who feel unwelcome in churches? Who are those in our culture today that would probably feel unwelcome?

7) What was the attitude of the Pharisees toward Jesus when he ate with tax collectors and sinners (9:9-13; see also Luke 5:17-39)? What do you suppose caused the Pharisees to have this attitude?

8) Optional leader's question(s).

APPLICATION

Think back about Matthew 9:10 and ask yourself, "how can I do something like that?" Jot down a few thoughts that come to mind.