

Matthew Chapter 8

"The Power of the King"

- Chapters 1-4 introduce the person of the King.
- Chapters 5-7 introduce the principles of the King.
- Chapters 8-9 introduce the power of the King.

Why did Jesus do these miracles?

1. Compassion; to meet human needs.
2. Called; in part they were His credentials.
3. To reveal the truth, these are sermons in action and in deed, the living word.

John 1:14 "And the word became flesh..."

1 John 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

V: 1 Jesus comes down off of the mount, having just preached the Sermon on the Mount.

- Often times at camps or conferences they are referred to as those spiritual high places, the mountain top experiences, but we soon learn that the fruit grows in the valley's – and often times their covered with manure.
- Now Jesus demonstrates the power and ability to attain to the high standards set during the sermon on the mount.

John 15:5 "... apart from Me you can do nothing."

Matthew 19:26 "... with God all things are possible."

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

"Multitudes followed Him..."

- Jesus initially told the Apostles "follow me..."

Later He would tell His disciples:

Mark 8:34 "And when He had called the people unto Him with His disciples also, He said unto them, whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

- As this plays out, we'll see that the crowd, the multitude gets a little thinner.
- They were following Jesus because of His words, because of the spoken Word of God, the basis of their faith and ours.

Hebrews 4:12

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Psalms 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:165 “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”

- They followed Jesus because of His word, and that is why we are here tonight – because of His word.

V: 2 “Leper” – Leprosy = type of sin, analogy.

- We’re all leprous.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

Romans 3:10, 23.

Isaiah 1:5-6 ⁵“Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. ⁶From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”

- A modern day equivalent might be AIDS / Poison oak...
- “Leprosy” = “smitten” in Hebrew.

Leviticus ch. 13 describes leprosy and its effects. (turn with me to...)

- **Lev. 13:3** leprosy / sin: More than skin deep.
- **Lev. 13:8** leprosy / sin: It spreads.
- **Lev. 13:46** leprosy / sin: It separates.
- **Lev. 13:52** leprosy / sin: Is only fit for the fire. It leads to a very warm place, wailing, gnashing of teeth. **Romans 6:23**

- 11550 subs. Abscessed and open running sores.
- 647b / gooey arm through her shirt.

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

- That is us, apart from Jesus, apart from the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ we're all just a bunch of walking puss buckets, full of filth, and iniquity.
- Seeing ourselves, seeing our sin. We should want to gag and throw up.

Romans 12:9 "... abhor (utterly detest) what is evil. Cling to what is good."

- John Newton: Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

As Christians we can be all too comfortable with sin.

- Just like the leper who is losing the nerve endings and ability to sense or feel we too can become de-sensitized.
- Sometimes the way this happens is through the things we expose ourselves to.
- Violent or profane movies, video games that portray bad things, music that glorifies or breeds acceptance of bad behavior.
- Course humor and joking around about foolish stuff. Jr. High School Locker Room Humor.

Cow pies: testimony -

- Pastor's son – Oregon – window – outside – hands / forearms – joy & delight.
- To those who knew better it was disgusting & revolting.

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;"

1 Corinthians 13:11 "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

- Talmud's (Jewish commentary on the Law) listing of "defilements":
#1 is death
#2 is leprosy.

Leprosy described: (in more clinical terms)

1. Skin takes on a hard, glossy appearance.
2. Open running sores.
3. Progressive / spreads, nerves become numb, "de-sensitized".
4. Living gangrene.
5. Face swells, develops folds, lion like appearance, nose disappears.
6. Decaying dead odor can be smelled from over 100' away.
7. Incurable, progressive, can take up to 30 years to kill you.

- Seems to be a picture of or modern society.
- Upon being diagnosed with leprosy the individual became an automatic outcast. (Division / separation)

Outcast: You can almost see how it would play out. Working in a field and the initial discovery. Attempted treatment, no progress or healing. Seen by a priest, diagnosed and immediately separated from wife, children, family, and friends. No farewells, no hugs goodbye, quarantined.

- If a leper was able to travel and came within sight of another non-leper they were to call out “un-clean, unclean” to warn others to stay away.
- If they came into a town or village and were recognized as a leper they would be driven out with stones. They were not allowed to live within a walled city.
- And yet we read that this leper this leper risked the crowd and approached Jesus.
- This leper asked for healing in spite of the “rules”.

James 4:2b “... yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”

- This leper tapped into something that Jesus would later expound on:

John 14:13-14 “¹³And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it.”

Verse 2 says that this leper “*came and worshipped Him...*”

- “Worshipped”, this word for worship is specific and only used for the worship of God.
- Notice the order: worship / humility; right heart; petition / request; response.

Saying, Lord, if Thou wilt / if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

- The leper didn’t question God’s ability to heal him, he questioned [if it was God’s will to heal him.](#)

“Clean” – (G2513) . katharos; clean (lit. or fig.), clear, pure.

- There were lots of lepers in those day, you know that there were a good many more somewhere around there – but only one was willing to approach Jesus and ask for healing.

V: 3 Jesus touched him – sin – our hearts, when no one else would. (**Jer. 17:9**)

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- Ben Hur: mother’s leprosy transferred to Jesus on the cross.

Isaiah 53:4-5 “⁴Surely he hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

Why?

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

- When Jesus touched him, it wasn’t a timid, tentative, pokey kind of a touch.
- I love a good hand shake.
- I love talking to the students in our Youth Group just like I would my own children and often times I will put my hand on their shoulder and speak to them.
- To me this communicates a love, a tenderness, a connection of sorts and honestly this is how I feel when God communicates to me, like His child.
- His hand on my shoulder, speaking in comfortable, loving tones into the deepest parts of my heart.
- I think that this is how Jesus spoke to this leper –
- **Please note the chronology: Jesus touched him first, and then He spoke to him.**
- Sometimes it is the touch of our Lord, through His servants in practical ways that enables His children to hear those words of healing, and cleansing:
- **Hurricane Katrina:** It didn’t matter what words were spoken until they knew that they were loved – then the words meant something.
- Then Jesus spoke the words that the leper hoped and needed to hear:

“I will, be thou clean”

John 15:3

John 15:3 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

Ephesians 5:26 “That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word.”

John the Baptist said it:

John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world!”

- Put your eyes on Jesus, keep your eyes on Jesus – and He will clean you up.
- Jesus never said “no” to anyone in need. He always ministered to the one with the greatest need.
- And to the greatest need – cleansing, forgiveness, restoration of our relationship with God.

V: 4 *“Tell no man”*

Mark 1:45 – he told everybody!

Mark 1:45 “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.”

Peter & Apostles told not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus:

Acts 4:20 “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

Triumphant entry:

Luke 19:39-40 ³⁹And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto Him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. ⁴⁰And He answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”

- Why would Jesus say that, why would He not want it known about?

Answer: 1. Not a magic show. 2. Possibly timing issue.

“Show the priest”

- A testimony to the priest who had probably already seen him so that he would see that God was working miracles in Israel.
- A testimony to one who would appreciate it.

“... shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded”

Leviticus 14:1-7 describes the ceremony of cleansing of a leper / sinner.

➤ In this we see a model of Jesus in the Old Testament, and the only cure for sin.

Leviticus 14:1-2 “¹And the Lord spake unto Moses saying, ²this shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing: he shall be brought unto the priest:”

Leviticus 14:3-7 “³And the priest shall go forth out of the camp;”

Heb. 4:14 “seeing then that we have a great High Priest, ... Jesus the Son of God.” Who was crucified outside of the camp.

“³And the priest shall look, and, behold, if the plague of leprosy be healed in the leper; ⁴Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, (doves) and **cedar wood**, and **scarlet**, and **hyssop**: (ingredients Passover / Cross) ⁵And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel (Jesus) over running water (Holy Spirit): ⁶As for the living bird,(us) he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water: (washed in the blood of the lamb) ⁷And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field.”

John 8:31-32 “³¹If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:36 “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

- This law had been on the books for 1500 years and had not been used.

“... go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.”

- Many priests came to believe in Jesus.

John 12:42 “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue.”

Acts 6:7 “And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”



Capernaum: “Village of Comfort”
HQ for Jesus & disciples.

V: 5 **Centurions** – it seems that in the Bible they are usually described as men of faith, good moral character, always described in positive terms.

1. Centurion @ crucifixion recognized Jesus as the Son of God.
2. Cornelius: Acts Ch. 10
3. Centurion rescued Paul from the mob in the Temple.
4. Another Centurion that conducted Paul from Caesarea foiling the ambush of the zealots who had taken an oath not to eat until they had killed Paul.
5. Another Centurion conducted Paul safely to Rome, ensuring that he wasn't executed during the shipwreck scenario.

- A Roman legion had 6,000 men. A centurion was in charge of a group of 100 men.
- Centurions were proven men of war, they had authority and power.
- Here we see a picture of humility as this centurion comes “beseeching” / “pleading”.

V: 6 Lord: (G 2962) kurios, koo'-ree-os; from kuros (supremacy); supreme in authority, (as noun) controller; by impl. Mr. (as a respectful title):--God, Lord, master, Sir.

- An act and statement of submission.
- Palsy: Usually the end result of a venereal disease.
- Swelling of the joints, eventually fusing them together solid, very painful, leads to total paralysis. Leaves the mind intact while the body deteriorates.

V: 7 Jesus responds immediately to the need / request.

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

V: 8 *“I am not worthy”*

Matthew 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

- Centurion and Jesus, some apparent contradictions:
 1. A wealthy Roman approaching a poor Jew.
 2. A powerful Centurion seeking a meek carpenter.
 3. A man of war approaching the Prince of Peace.

V: 8b-9 The centurion demonstrates his knowledge or understanding of authority, and of submission.

- The centurion recognized the power of the spoken Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Psalms 19:7 “The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

Jeremiah 23:29 “Is not My Word like as a fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”

- The centurion understood that he was speaking with the One who said “let there be light, and there was light” – and that He could just as easily say “be healed” and his servant would be healed.

V: 10 Jesus “marveled” 2 times.

1. Here at the centurion’s “great faith”.
2. Later at the Jews great lack of faith.

Mark 6:6 “And He marveled because of their unbelief....”

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

- The centurion believed it even though he had yet to actually see it.
- We’re going to get to meet that guy in Heaven some day.

V: 11-12 Ironically many gentiles will come to faith in Jesus, and many Jews will miss heaven by 18 inches.

Matthew 22:1-14 King having a wedding feast for His Son, the invited guests didn't want to come – so the un-desirables were invited instead.

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; tor the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Galatians 3:28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Malachi 1:11 “For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same My name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto My name, and a pure offering for My name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts.”

Luke 14:16-24 A man gave a great supper and invited many who wouldn't come.

V: 13 Go thy way, go in peace:

James 5:16b “... The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

- The centurion's servant was healed from a distance, like the other gentile (woman) whose daughter was healed.

Matthew 15:21-28 Greek Syro-Phoenician woman of Tyre from Canaan.

V: 14 Peter moved his house from Bethsaida which means house of fishing - **John 1:44** - to Capernaum to be closer to Jesus.

- Lot moved too. Economic decisions Vs spiritual decision.
- “... *his wife's mother*...” – Peter was married.
- “*Fever*” – probably was malaria, which was most common in that area as opposed to Typhoid fever or Malta fever, or some other.

V: 15 The natural result of experiencing the touch of Jesus is ministry and service.

James 2:17-20 “¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
¹⁸Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”

- Essentially we see Jesus dealing with three types of people with a common label:
- **Outcasts.** 1. Lepers 2. Gentiles 3. Women.
- This is how real ministry starts: blessing in the home leads to blessing in the community, who later gathered at the door.

Mark 1:30-34 “³⁰But Simon’s wife’s mother lay sick of a fever, and anon / immediately they tell Him of her. ³¹And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them. ³²And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto Him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. ³³And all the city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew Him.”

- It started in the household and worked it’s way out into the community.

V: 16 “Devils” = demons, is a better translation. Lots of demons but only one Devil.

Galatians 6:17b “... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them : because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

V: 17 Prophecy fulfilled: quoting **Isaiah 53:4**

Isaiah 53:4 “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.”

V: 18 From Mark’s Gospel, we learn that Jesus didn’t just beat feet out of there, but that He healed and ministered to many:

Mark 1:33-34 “³³And all the city was gathered together at the door.
³⁴And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew Him.”

- Multitudes of un-recorded miracles took place.

John 20:30-31 “³⁰And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name.”

V: 19-20 Emotions or the call of God? Consider carefully – the call of God.

Luke 14:25-33 “²⁵And there went great multitudes with Him: and He turned, and said unto them, ²⁶If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be My disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? ²⁹Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, and all that behold it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, this man began to build, and was not able to finish. ³¹Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? ³²Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. ³³So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple.”

Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Elkanah-Hannah-Samuel (“God is exalted”, “Son of God”)

1 Samuel 2:18, 21, 26, 3:1-10. As a child Samuel served the Lord, but did not know the voice of the Lord – until he was instructed.

“*Son of Man*” – **1st use** - prophetic title.

Daniel 7:13-14 “¹³I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

- Did he go with Jesus? Doesn't say, but I'd like to think so.

Regarding possessions:

1 Timothy 6:6-8 “⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”

Colossians 1:18 “And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.”

Luke 9:62 “And Jesus said unto him, no man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Regarding relationships:

V: 21-22 Cultural aspect to bury father, meaning wait until he died, which could be some time.

Ephesians 2:1 “And you He hath quickened / made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”

Matthew 10:37 “He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

James 1:8 “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

- He may have been saying “when I get my inheritance” / or the modern equivalent of “when I retire” then I can serve you.
- These last two men represent two extremes:
 1. The scribe who had not thought it through enough, making an emotional decision.
 2. The one who would bury his father who had thought it through too much, trying to figure it all the way out, reliant on provision he can see as opposed to walking in faith.
- Abraham tarried with his father Terah in **Genesis 12**, then after his father died he went to the land of Canaan, obeying the Word of God.
- Choices: Riches, relationships, or Jesus.

Matthew 6:24, 33 “²⁴No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

“³³But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

2 Peter 2:19 “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

We have to choose: He in a sense forces that choice.

Deuteronomy 30:19 “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both you and thy seed may live.”

V: 23 That’s what disciples do, they follow their teacher.

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

- **Genesis 7** – Noah and his family were sheep. Their shepherd said “come” into the ark, they heard His voice and they followed Him.

V: 24 The sea of Galilee is 680’ below sea level, Mt. Hermon is 9,280’ above sea level. As the cold air from above meets the hot air from below it creates quite a stir = 25’ waves measured from the back, 40’ on the face.

Circumstances: How big are the circumstances? How big is your God?

- Jesus was tired enough to sleep through it – peace!

Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee.”

Jesus gives us of what is His:

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

V: 25 “*And His disciples came to Him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.*”

Desperation! Matthew the tax collector, sure, Simon the zealot, sure – Judas the betrayer- why not, but Peter, Andrew, John, James - sailors?

- This is very much like what we read in Daniel Ch. 3.

Daniel 3:22-25 “²²Therefore because the king’s commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²⁴Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, true, O king. ²⁵He answered and said, lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”

- God gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego favor in Nebuchadnezzar's eyes, he didn't care about the soldiers that were killed, he only cared about the Hebrew children.
- In His favor, God allowed them to go through this trial.
- They went in bound, it was in the trial that their bonds were loosed, they came out free.
- The disciples obviously have favor with Jesus, or they wouldn't be His disciples.
- What was it that bound them? What was Jesus going to free them from? What was the purpose of this trial?

Hebrews 2:14-15 “¹⁴Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy Him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

V: 26 “Little faith”, (better than none) but compared to the “great faith” of the centurion.
V: 10

- In verse 18 Jesus said they were going to the other side.

Mark 4:35 “... let us pass over unto the other side.”

- Fearful?

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶Be careful / be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Mark 4:39 “And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still! And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.”

- “Peace be still” = be “muzzled”, as in a wild dog.

Ephesians 2:1-2 “¹And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ²Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience,”

Psalms 46: 1-11 **turn to / read**

V: 27 Starting to realize who they're dealing with.

- This is part of a progression in their growth that will lead to **Matthew 16:13-16**

Matthew 16:13-16 “¹³When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, whom do men say that I the Son of Man am? ¹⁴And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵He saith unto them, but whom say ye that I am? ¹⁶And Simon Peter answered and said, **thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.**”

V: 28 “Gergesenes” are the same as the “Gadarenes”

- Descendants of Gad, stayed / settled on the wrong side of the Jordan Vs going into the promise land as God had commanded. **Numbers 32:1-5**
- They settled for less than God's best for them.
- They eventually went from raising cattle to pig ranchers; one compromise usually leads to another.

Mark 5:1-21 same story, different perspective.

V: 29 The demons recognized their creator, but there is a big difference between knowing of God, and putting your trust in Him.

James 2:19 “**Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.**”

- They also knew their end and who was in control. **Revelation 20**

V: 31-32 Jesus commanded Satan to go, **Matthew 4:10**, and he did.

- They not only knew who Jesus is, but they knew His character and what He was likely to do.
- There is only one steep place along the shore of Galilee, at Gadera, or modern day Kursi, just below Ramot.
- 2,000 pigs – **Mark 5:13** – didn't have the same capacity as 2 deprived men to contain the demons, meaning man's capacity for evil is greater.
- Or, the pigs wouldn't do what man would!

V's: 28-34 Satan robs man of their sanity, and self control.

- Satan fills them with fear, robs them of their love and joy, their family, and home.

❖ This is a picture of life dominating sin.

- Satan leads them, and us if we are foolish enough, to death and Hell.
- Then as now, society was unable to change, chain, or help these men, only the power of Jesus Christ was able to change their hearts, set them free, and heal them.

Jesus gives an admonition:

Matthew 12:43-45 “⁴³When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. ⁴⁴Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. ⁴⁵Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.”

- Alcohol, drugs, pornography, gambling, promiscuity, life dominating sin... must be replaced with the righteousness of God.
- There is no void, nature abhors a void – if we put something off, then we must put something on.

1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

- Jesus went through a storm to save them by the power of His word. Some, the demoniacs received healing, others – the rest rejected His help.
- Jesus spoke and they were healed – the Word of God impacted their lives.

V: 33-34 Matthew 7:6 talks about not casting our pearls before swine, and here we see why. Having no capacity for God they chose their pigs, their money, over God.

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

- All these people around me with their Bibles are so dialed in with God, I'm such a rotten miserable mess, my life is so fouled up – surely He won't want to touch me.
- As sure as He exists, He wants to touch you, He is reaching out to you at this very moment.

- ❖ The question is no longer "Lord if you are willing?" God has established that He is willing.
- ❖ The question is "[are we willing?](#)"
- ❖ Are you willing to allow God to touch your life?

- Will you allow God to tell you "no", will you serve Him and glorify Him anyway?
- But God I wanted Job / husband / heal my mom / to get me out of this!
- Would we be content with just being in our right mind, and in a right relationship with Him?

1 Timothy 6:6 "But Godliness with contentment is great gain."