

# “Miracles of the Messiah”

## Matthew 8:1-17

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**Key Words:** Prayer

**Matthew 8:1** “When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.”

**Luke 7:1** “Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum.”

A miracle is defined as an extraordinary or unnatural event that reveals or confirms a specific message through a mighty work.

The Gospels record some of the miracles Jesus performed, but not all of them.

- **Matthew 12:15** “And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.”
- **Luke 6:17-18** “...and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, <sup>18</sup> as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed.”

*“Why did our Lord perform miracles? Certainly, He wanted to meet human needs. God is concerned about the temporal well-being of His creatures as well as their eternal happiness. It is wrong to separate ministry to the body and ministry to the soul since we must minister to the whole person (see Matthew 4:23–25).*

*Certainly, our Lord’s miracles were additional credentials to prove His claim as the Messiah of Israel. “The Jews require a sign” (1 Corinthians 1:22). While miracles of themselves are not proof that a man has been sent by God (even Satan can perform miracles [2 Thessalonians 2:9]), they do add weight to his claim, especially if his character and conduct are godly. In the case of Jesus Christ, His miracles also fulfilled Old Testament prophecies (see Isa. 29:18–19; 35:4–6). Matthew 8:17 refers us to Isaiah 53:4; and Jesus Himself in Matthew 11:1–5 referred John the Baptist to the Old Testament promises. These same “signs and wonders”*

would be the credentials of His followers in their ministries (Matthew 10:8; Hebrews 2:1–4).”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 32). Victor Books.

*Is everyone healed today?* The answer is no. As a matter of fact, after Jesus died, rose from the dead and returned to the right hand of the Father, scripture records some that weren't healed.

- *Paul* wasn't healed
  - **2 Corinthians 12:7-9** “<sup>7</sup> And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.  
<sup>8</sup> Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> And He said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.**”
- *Timothy* wasn't healed
  - **1 Timothy 5:23** “No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.”
- *Trophimus* wasn't healed
  - **2 Timothy 4:20** “...but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.”
- There is a very damaging doctrine that teaches everyone can be healed if they have enough faith. This results in people being shipwrecked in their faith because they believe they don't have enough faith and that God is displeased with them.

*One day in heaven all will be healed!*

- **Revelation 21:3-4** “<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, <sup>e</sup>the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. <sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

## Healing the Outcast

**Matthew 8:2-4** “<sup>2</sup> And, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, “**I am willing; be cleansed.**” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to him, “**See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.**”

- *Great Multitudes* – Leaving the area He concluded the Sermon on the Mount, many, if not all followed Him.

- *The Patient –*
  - *A leper*
    - Leprosy is HIGHLY contagious and leads to a slow gruesome death.
    - Leprosy was the worst of all diseases in the ancient world.
    - There was no cure for leprosy and until Jesus cleansed Lepers, no one had EVER been cleansed.

*“William Barclay, says, “There never has been any disease which so separated a man from his fellow-men as leprosy did.”* <sup>1</sup> William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1958), vol. 1, 302. The status of lepers is discussed on pages 300–301.

- *The Great Physician –*
  - *Jesus cleansed him –*
    - This is the first recorded healing in Matthew.
    - The leper came and worshipped, but was supposed to cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean’
      - **Leviticus 13:45-46** <sup>45</sup> “Now the leper on whom the sore *is*, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ <sup>46</sup> He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He *is* unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling *shall be* outside the camp.”
        - *Rabbis didn’t even allow a leper to wash his face.*”
          - **The Leper was a total outcast!**
    - Leprosy didn’t keep this man from Jesus or Jesus from this man!
    - Jesus didn’t just heal the man, He cleansed him!
    - The reason he was cleansed and not healed is because leprosy rendered a person “spiritually unclean” and therefore cursed by God.
      - **Matthew 11:2-6** <sup>2</sup> And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “**Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.**”

*“When Jesus touched the leper, his touch, rather than contaminating Jesus, cured the leper. It is a spectacular demonstration of what Jesus’ coming does in respect to human sin. Jesus did not become sinful by becoming one of us; rather, he made it possible for us to be cleansed from sin by his contact.”* <sup>1</sup> Boice, J. M. (2001). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 123). Baker Books.

## **Healing from Afar**

**Matthew 8:5-13** <sup>5</sup> Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, <sup>6</sup> saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” <sup>7</sup> And Jesus said to him, **“I will come and heal him.”** <sup>8</sup> The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.” <sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, **“Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! <sup>11</sup> And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”** <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the centurion, **“Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.”** And his servant was healed that same hour.”

**Luke 7:2-5** <sup>2</sup> And a certain centurion’s servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. <sup>3</sup> So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. <sup>4</sup> And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, <sup>5</sup> “for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.”

### • *The Centurion* –

- This man was a Gentile. The word Gentile is the English translation of the Hebrew word ‘Goyim’ which means ‘People, nations.’ The Greek word ‘Ethne’ and the Latin Vulgate ‘Gentilis.’
  - It was used to mean non-Jew.
- A Centurion was a man with over 100 men under him in the Roman Army.
  - **“Every centurion mentioned in the Gospels and Acts was a gentleman of high character and sense of duty, and this man was no exception.”** <sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 33). Victor Books.
- This Centurion specifically was a compassionate man that had a good relationship with his servant. He also had a good relationship with the Jews. He built them a synagogue.

- *The Patient* –
  - Not only paralyzed, but also tormented.
    - Satan loves to torment the sick.
- *The Request* –
  - Please heal my servant.
  - But there's no need to come, "*but only speak the word*"
- *The Response* –
  - I have not found such great faith, even in Israel!
    - That means that even the Jews didn't believe God could heal like this man did.
  - **Matthew 8:11-12** <sup>11</sup> "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
    - Jesus is speaking regarding salvation.
    - Salvation isn't something you are born into. You aren't born saved.
    - You MUST be born-again!
      - **John 3:3** "...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
      - **John 3:5-6** <sup>5</sup> "Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.'"
      - **1 Corinthians 15:50** "...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God."
  - Salvation wasn't just for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles!
    - **John 3:16-21** <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup> 'He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.'"

## Healing Someone Close

**Matthew 8:14-17** <sup>14</sup> Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. <sup>15</sup> So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them."

- *The Location* –
  - Peter's house
- *The Patient* –
  - Peter's mother-in-law
  - Yes, Peter was married!
- *The Point* –
  - What a long day of ministry! But Jesus wasn't done! He concluded the sermon on the mount, healed a leper, healed a centurion's servant then returned to Peter's house and healed his mother-in-law and continued in ministry!

## And Many More...

**Matthew 8:16-17** <sup>16</sup> When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, <sup>17</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "*He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.*"

- There was so much more that Jesus did!
  - **John 21:25** "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen."
- Matthew saw this all as a fulfillment of prophecy and quotes Isaiah 54.
  - **Isaiah 54:3** "*He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.*"
- Luke also records a similar passage.
  - **Luke 4:16-29** <sup>16</sup> So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup> "*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;* <sup>19</sup> *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.*" <sup>20</sup> Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup> And He began to say to them, "**Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**"

- While Jesus did heal the sick and lame, His main reason for coming was to heal the spiritually broken.
- All of us are born sinners, separated from God by our sin. Jesus died to heal us!
  - **1 Peter 2:24** “...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”
    - Have you been healed of the greatest disease known to mankind?
    - This disease separates you from God, but Jesus can heal you!

**PREACH THE GOSPEL!!!**