

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

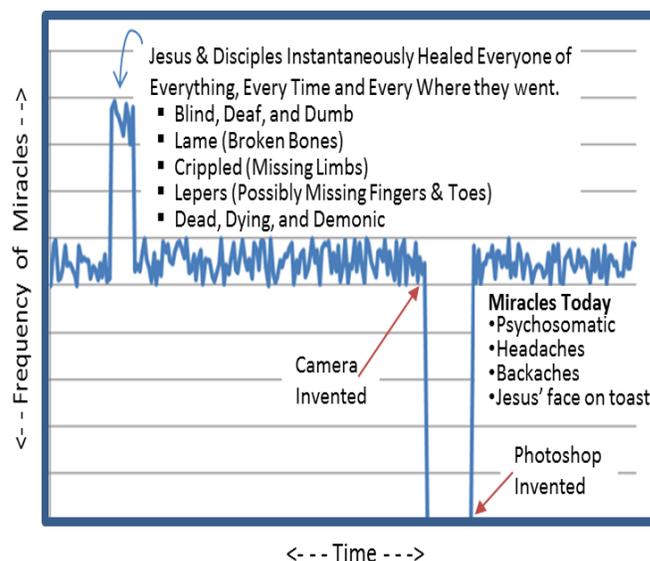
- 1) 6 December 2015..... Matthew 03The Preaching of John the Baptist
- 2) 13 December..... Matthew 01 The Genealogy of Christ
- 3) 20 December..... Matthew 02 The Magi
- 4) 27 December..... Matthew 04 The Temptation of Jesus
- 5) 03 January 2016..... Matthew 05:1-16..... The Sermon on the Mount
- 6) 10 January..... Matthew 06..... Benevolence Giving
- 7) 17 January..... Matthew 05:17-45..... Personal Relationships
- 8) 24 January..... Matthew 07..... Judging Others
- 9) 31 January..... Matthew 08..... More Miracles**
- 10) 07 February..... Matthew 09-10 More Miracles
- 11) 14 February..... Matthew 11..... Tough Questions
- 12) 21 February..... Matthew 12..... Time to Pick a Fight
- 13) 28 February..... Matthew 13..... More Parables

INTRODUCTION

- Large crowds continued to follow Jesus and He “healed ALL who were ill.” This chapter provides irrefutable evidence of Jesus’ authority over demons, disease, nature, and even death

Passage	Comments
Matthew 8:1-4	<p>Individual Healing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Large crowds followed Christ. Again, how large were large crowds? Easily 100’s, but could be 1,000’s • v4. A leper gets healed. If this leper was in advanced stages of Hansen's disease he might have had deformed or missing fingers and toes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Notice that “immediately” the leper was healed. This was a supernatural event since time was circumvented, and possibly restoration of missing digits ♦ Since crowds were mentioned in v1 and the leper in v2, the crowds might have witnessed this event ♦ So, why did Jesus tell the leper not to tell anyone? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possibly to slow down His fame (crowds can be unruly and unteachable at times, if inflamed) 2. Possibly so the Jewish priests would have untarnished evidence of a healed leper to investigate (IOW, the leper would have been standing before the priests alone without clamoring witnesses) 3. Or, did Jesus use reverse psychology to greatly market His abilities and draw even larger crowds? (This is the weakest reason, for Jesus would not use deceptive means to manipulate people)
Ceremonial Cleansing of a Leper found in Leviticus 14:2-23.	<p>The Law. The offering was two living, clean birds, some cedar wood, with scarlet and hyssop, which were to be brought for his cleansing; and, when clean, two male lambs, one ewe lamb, three tenth deals of flour, and one log of oil; but if the person was poor, then he was to bring one lamb, one tenth deal of flour, one log of oil and two turtle doves, or young pigeons</p> <p>The Purpose. This leper is the only one recorded in the Bible supernaturally healed and ceremonially cleansed in this fashion. The Jewish priests would have immediately realized, because of verifiable evidence, that a God-ordained, Moses-like prophet was in their midst</p>
8:5-13	<p>Remote Healing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What other Gentiles were noted for their faith? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The wise men from the east who found the Messiah ♦ Syro-Phoenician (Canaanite) widow who asked for a healing for her daughter Mat 15:22 ♦ Cornelius, a Roman who prayed & gave Acts 10:1 • What was the significance of Jesus healing from afar? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This was definitely outside the realm of the natural ♦ Man cannot work such a feat without trickery, but can Satan? Only if God permits it (e.g., Egyptian magicians caused frogs to come up over the land)

Passage	Comments
How Did Jesus Heal and Who Did He Heal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus healed with a touch • He healed with a word • He healed large groups • He healed selectively <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ One lame man at the Pool of Bethesda • He healed remotely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Roman centurion's servant ♦ Syro-Phoenician's daughter • He healed the ungrateful <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 9 out of 10 lepers • He healed when faith was present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ All those who touched Him ♦ “Your faith has made you well” • He healed when faith was not present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Widow’s son at Nain (no one asked Him) • He healed when faith was weak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Father of the “lunatic” boy • He healed for convenience sake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Peter’s mother-in-law so she could feed them • He healed within the synagogue • He healed outside of the synagogue • He healed the easy ones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Peter’s mother-in-law’s fever • He healed the hard ones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Lazarus after 4 days in the grave • He healed out of compassion • He healed out of compulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Royal Official's son in John 4 • He healed sinners • He healed believers • He healed unbelievers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Blind man in John 9, and demoniacs • He healed foreigners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Syro-Phoenician's daughter (a Canaanite) • In essence, Jesus instantaneously healed EVERYONE who came to Him, and then some... • The only ones Jesus could not and did not heal were those who refused to come out to him because of their willful unbelief • Yet, where did Jesus perform most of His miracles? In unrepentant towns..... Mat 11:20; 13:58; Lk 10:13



Passage	Comments
8:14-15	<p>Healing of Convenience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter's mother-in-law seemed to have a minor ailment, a fever of some sort. A couple of days and she would be up and about on her own. BUT, Jesus showed concern for people's minor discomforts • And this was also a healing of convenience, since Jesus and His disciples were at her house, and they were hungry. After being healed, she felt good enough to immediately get up to make them dinner • What's interesting here in this passage is the fever left her after Jesus "touched her hand." In Luke's account (Luke 4:31-39) Jesus "rebuked the fever" and it left her. So rebuking doesn't involve theatrics as we see in modern healing movements, but just a simple touch • In Luke's account of this healing we also see that it occurred on the Sabbath. She had the dubious reputation of being 1 of 7 Sabbath healings, healings that provoked the religious leaders more than all others
8:16-17	<p>Crowd Healings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v16. Notice the crowds waited till the evening before coming to Christ at Peter's mother-in-law's house; That's because they waited till the Sabbath was over <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jesus, again, "healed ALL who were ill" ♦ Jesus also healed the demon-possessed with just a word. What authority! Does such authority exist today? Should it? Biblical evidence says YES!
More on Crowds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus mingled with the crowds as we see in Chapter 8 • Jesus healed all who were ill and tormented in the crowds as we saw in Chapter 4, and here again in Chapter 8, and as we will see in Chapters 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 19, and 21 • But Jesus also avoided crowds when He saw unruly behavior, which is unteachable ("Let's make Him King" or "Let's kill Him") <p>Remember. Jesus' priority was to teach and preach to the crowds to impact them for all eternity. Healings and Miracles only offered temporary solace here in this life.</p>
8:18-22	<p>Time to Get Real</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two men expressed interest in joining Jesus' band • But Jesus had some tough criteria for them to consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ To the 1st, Jesus conveyed that he sleeps out in the elements – IOW, the task at hand is not easy or fun ♦ To the 2nd, Jesus conveyed one must be totally loyal to Him and Him alone. How serious is our faith?
8:23-27	<p>Miracle in the Boat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After witnessing miracles and 100% healings by Christ over the past many months why would the apostles have such little faith? Would we be any different?
8:28-34	<p>Demoniacs Healed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselors have a cliché that 'People don't change till they are sick & tired of being sick & tired. Possibly these 2 demoniacs had enough sense to seek help from Christ. Else, why didn't they just flee from Christ? • Question #1. Since Christ knew the swine would die and thereby impact the economy of the region, and the demons would be freed to torment others, why didn't He send the demons to the abyss? Isaiah 55:9 • More Questions. Would Jesus have sent the demons into a flock of sheep? What is so disgusting about swine? Are demoniacs devoid of their free will?

Passage	Comments
More on Demons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual warfare is a reality and a priority for us. We don't need satanic influence to sin against God, but demons do add a different dimension to our fight • Whether someone is demon-possessed or not, we have available God's authority and resources to help those struggling to live victoriously for Christ • The Key is OBEDIENCE, then Satan flees.. Jms 4:7-10 • Also, Paul tells us we are not to be quarrelsome, but kind to all, able to teach them, patient when wronged, and with gentleness correct those who are struggling. Then, God can do His mighty work to free them from the clutches of the devil, → assuming the struggling individual truly wants to be helped. ... 2 Timothy 2:24-26

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

OK, how does all this applies to us in the 21st century?

- If Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, why don't we see healings of the same magnitude as He and His disciples performed in the first century – Soldiers being healed of their horrific war injuries; and in like fashion, Down Syndrome children and burn victims healed instantaneously and permanently?
 - ♦ IOW, as Gideon asked centuries ago, where are all of God's miracles that we have heard so much about?[Judges 6:13](#)
 - ♦ Is it due to a lack of faith on our part or on the part of the sick?
 - ♦ Or is it because God operates differently at different times?
- **Consider this.** It is not due to a lack of faith, because the Disciples really didn't have much faith when they were going about healing. In fact, even Judas, the Son of Perdition, was presumably healing as much if not more than the other Apostles since he had the place of honor next to Christ at the Last Supper event
- **Consider this also.** God's character never changes, but He does change His mode of operandi. Therefore, in all probability, we will not see supernatural healings and miracles again until the 2 witnesses in Revelation 11 come on the world scene. Until then, God works providentially to answer our prayers and within the natural laws He established for us.
- **And don't forget this.** Demonic oppression, obsession, and possession is real, and God wants us to discern the spirits and know how to win these spiritual battles – with His authority, not ours
- **Therefore,** be aware of the times we live in and how God is working today. Proclaim the truth, for God uses sound doctrine to save and mature those who have ears to hear.

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 9-10. While teaching inside and outside the Synagogues, Jesus continued to heal every kind of disease and every kind of illness. We cannot escape the reality that Jesus was breaking the known laws of nature to bring healings to everyone who needed it – BUT WHY?



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