**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.

### LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1. 6 December 2015...........Matthew 03........The Preaching of John the Baptist
2. 13 December...............Matthew 01........The Genealogy of Christ
3. 20 December...............Matthew 02........The Temptation of Jesus
4. 27 December...............Matthew 04........The Zeal for His House
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

### Passage

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<td>Matthew 8:1-4</td>
<td>v1. Large crowds followed Christ. Again, how large were large crowds? Easily 100’s, but could be 1,000’s</td>
<td><strong>How Did Jesus Heal and Who Did He Heal?</strong></td>
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| | 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 | Jesus healed remotely:
| | Notice that “immediately” the leper was healed. This was a supernatural event since time was circumvented and possibly restoration of missing digits | - Roman centurion’s servant
| | Since crowds were mentioned in v1 and the leper in v2, the crowds might have witnessed this event | - Syro-Phoenician’s daughter
| | So, why did Jesus tell the leper not to tell anyone? 1. Possibly to slow down His fame (crowds can be unruly and unteachable at times, if inflamed) | - He healed when faith was weak
| | 2. Possibly so the Jewish priests would have unattested evidence of a healed leper to investigate (IOW, the leper would have been standing before the priests alone without clamoring witnesses) | - Father of the “lunatic” boy
| | 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) | - He healed for convenience sake
| | 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 | - Peter’s mother-in-law’s fever
| | 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 | - He healed the hard ones
| | Remote Healing | - Lazarus after 4 days in the grave
| | What other Gentiles were noted for their faith? | - He healed out of compassion
| | The wise men from the east who found the Messiah | - He healed out of compulsion
| | Syro-Phoenician (Canaanite) widow who asked for a healing for her daughter | - Royal Official’s son in John 4
| | Cornelius, a Roman who prayed & gave .... Acts 10:1 | - He healed sinners
| | What was the significance of Jesus healing from afar? | - He healed believers
| | This was definitely outside the realm of the natural | - He healed unbelievers
| | 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) | - Blind man in John 9, and demoniacs
| | In essence, Jesus instantaneously healed EVERYONE who came to Him, and then some... | - He healed foreigners
| | The only ones Jesus could not and did not heal were those who refused to come out to him because of their willful unbelief | - Syro-Phoenician’s daughter (a Canaanite)
| | Yet, where did Jesus perform most of His miracles? In unrepentant towns...........Mat 11:20; 13:58; Lk 10:13 |

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| Jesus & Disciples Instantaneously Healed Everyone of Everything, Every Time and Every Where they went. | **< - Frequency of Miracles - >**
| Blind, Deaf, and Dumb | Camera
| Lamé (Broken Bones) | Invented
| Crippled (Missing Limbs) | Miracles Today
| Lepers (Possibly Missing Fingers & Toes) | +Psychosomatic
| Dead, Dying, and Demonic | +Headaches
| Jesus’ face on toast | +Backaches
| Photoshop | Invented

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Healing of Convenience
- 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.

More on Demons
- 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 operation. 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?