

## *A note from Kathy*

*Jesus' ministry has three parts as we saw in Matthew 4:23; teaching, preaching and healing. He began his preaching in Matthew 4:17, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," and his teaching in Matthew 5-7 with the beautiful Sermon on the Mount, and now we see several healings in Matthew 8. Jesus has shown himself as the Messiah through his words and his miracles. Now the choice is up to the individual, to believe and place their trust in him or continue in their own way. What is your answer?*

## *Observation*

There is a chart on the last page of this study guide for you to fill in. It includes the four major healings from this chapter. Answer the questions and fill in the chart.

1. When the leper approached Jesus what was his attitude and posture?
2. The leper referred to Jesus as Lord. If you have a Strong's Concordance or Bible dictionary look up this word and define.
3. Did the man believe Jesus could heal him? What was he unsure of?
4. Leprosy is often a very contagious disease, what did Jesus do that probably had not happened for a long, long time?
5. What was Jesus' answer to the leper?
6. What was the outcome?
7. What instructions was he given?
8. If you want to read more details, go to Mark 1:40-44 and Luke 5:12-14.
9. As Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion (a Roman soldier who was in charge of 100 men) came to Jesus and asked him for help. What did he say? Notice how this man of authority referred to Jesus.
10. What was Jesus' response?
11. Why do you believe the Centurion did not want Jesus to go to his house? Do you believe his position as a centurion helped him understand and display this amazing faith? If so, how?

12. What did Jesus say about this man's faith?
13. How did Jesus handle the centurion's request?
14. In verse 14, Jesus arrived at Peter's mother-in-laws' home. What did he find?
15. What did Jesus do?
16. What was the woman's response to Jesus' action on her behalf?
  - It has been said that after we are saved, our lives should be lived as one big thank you to the Lord for all he has done for us.

**That is enough work on the chart for a few minutes. We will come back to it.**

17. By the time evening came, what had happened in the area of Capernaum?
18. Verses 18-22 give an interesting insight into some of the people following Jesus. Jot down your thoughts about these two men who said they wanted to follow Jesus. These men seemed to be making a good choice, but do you believe they had counted the cost?  
Scribe, a teacher of the law                      disciple, a follower

19. Jesus was God in flesh, his body tired, he walked everywhere he went, teaching and preaching and healing the sick. How do you believe Jesus was feeling? What did he do?
20. Many of Jesus' followers, Peter, Andrew, James and John, were fishermen. Storms were a normal part of their lives. The Sea of Galilee had many high mountains around it, so a storm could come up undetected quite quickly. What was the response of the seasoned fishermen? What was different about this storm?

21. They woke Jesus, and what did he do?

**Now let's go back to our chart for one last healing.**

22. When the boat arrived safely on the other side of the lake, who met them there?
23. What were these two men like?
24. What did the demons know that many who had been with Jesus did not fully comprehend?
25. What did Jesus do for these two men?
26. How did he do this?

27. What was his motive for doing this miracle?
28. What was the result?
29. What kind of a welcome did Jesus and his followers receive from the town's people?  
Judging by their response, what were they most interested in?
30. Read Luke's account of this story in Luke 8:26-39. What was the people's reaction to seeing this mighty work of God?

## *Application*

1. This has been an amazing chapter. Have you or anyone you know and love ever been miraculously healed? If so, then I am sure you can recall the emotions and the joy you felt. I am sure it came to your mind as you read this story of the leper who was healed and the centurion's servant who was restored to health. How did this experience affect your prayers? Could you relate to the leper; he knew Jesus could heal him but was not sure it would be his will to do it? How did your miraculous healing affect your life and the lives of those you love?
2. The healing of Peter's mother-in-law is a beautiful story of gratitude. I do not want to sound too negative, but quite often someone will ask for prayer because they or a loved one is sick. The prayers are answered and the healing comes, yet the praise is lacking. Oh, they are grateful they are no longer sick, but true thankfulness needs to be expressed. What has God done for you that you may have overlooked praising him for?
3. I love the story of Esther. She became the queen over Shushan after a sad series of events. One day her uncle overheard a plot to kill the king. He told Esther, and the king's life was saved. But no reward or accommodation was given to Mordecai. Life went on, and one night when the king could not sleep, he ordered the book of records to be brought. His servants read to him the story of how this plot had been thwarted. He asked his servants what honor had been bestowed on Mordecai for this kind act. They said nothing had been done for him. This was unacceptable to this grateful king. His act of gratitude began a chain of events that would eventually save an entire nation. You can read the rest of the story in Esther 6-10. The point is, there are times when we forget to show our gratitude for kindness, but we should never leave it like that, especially when the generous act of kindness was shown by our God and King. Spend a few minutes thanking God for His goodness.

4. It is often difficult to reason things out when we are in a furious and unexpected storm. If the men who were in the boat with Jesus that day had thought it through, what are some facts that might have brought them comfort as the storm raged on?
5. If you read Luke 8:26-39 then you know Jesus wanted this demon-possessed man to remain in his home town when the man wanted to follow Jesus. Why would Jesus leave him in a place where even Jesus himself was not welcome?
6. Have you ever wonder why God leaves you in a place where it seems he is so unwanted?
7. This week we took a brief look at two disciples who declared their desire to follow Jesus. But Jesus knew their hearts; they had not truly counted the cost. It was not going to be glamorous. "The Son of Man has no place to lay his head." **Matthew 8:20**  
Today we see many preachers and teachers who invite people to accept Jesus, but they paint a picture of following Christ that is not real. They talk about how we simply ask and receive; how our God owns everything and longs to give it to us. But the New Testament speaks much more about the reality of suffering for Christ's sake than it does about getting what we want. Please look over the verses below. There are many more, but this is enough for our purpose.  
The Apostle Paul was well acquainted with suffering for the cause of Christ. As he was encouraging Timothy, he shared the importance of counting the cost.

**2 Tim. 3:10-12** *You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*

**1 Peter 4:12-14** *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

## Matthew 8

Matthew 8:2-4	Man with Leprosy	Matthew 8:5-13	Centurion with sick servant
	Came to Jesus		Came to Jesus

Matthew 8:14-15	Peter's Mother-in-law	Matthew 8:28-33	Two demon possessed men
	Jesus came to their house .		They came out from the tombs