

The Message Behind the Messiah's Ministry of Miracles

Matthew 8:1-17

Introduction:

- Today's magicians use illusion, tricks, and slight of hand to amaze and e_____.
- Ancient magicians claimed s_____ powers by their secret arts, which were just illusion, tricks, or slight of hand (e.g. Ex 7:11).
- Some have claimed that Jesus used "secret arts" to get people to follow Him as the Messiah, however:
 1. His miracles were p_____ in that they met the needs of the people - (e.g. healing)
 2. His miracles had a m_____ behind them
 - a. Matthew arranges the narrative to show this in 8:1-17
 - b. This should motivate us to pray, live, and give, in a way that shows we truly believe.

Healing of the leper – Jesus came to f_____ the Law (1-4)

- The disease of leprosy
 1. Leprosy was m_____ contagious but caused severe disfigurement.
 2. Most people d_____ from the disease because of the internal damage it did to organs.
- The Mosaic Law and leprosy
 1. People with leprosy were q_____ (Lev 13:46) and so lived in caves.
 2. People with leprosy were to cry "u_____" if they were within eyesight of anyone (Lev 13:45).
 3. No one was to t_____ a person with leprosy (Lev 5:3)
- The leper's statement to Jesus in verse 2 reflects that:
 1. He believed that Jesus had the ability to make him c_____ (i.e. a complete healing)
 2. He had some reservations of Jesus's w_____ to make him clean (this would be the first healing of a leper, since all previous healings were done where no leper would be – in the synagogues and among c_____).
- Jesus's response
 1. He expressed His w_____

2. He t_____ the leper which brought instantaneous healing.
3. He instructed the leper to obey the Mosaic Law (Lev 13:16,17; Lev 14) and show himself as a t_____ to the priests:
 - a. Of Jesus's power to h_____
 - b. Of Jesus's purpose to f_____ the Law (many falsely accused Jesus of breaking God's laws).

●Christianity

1. Was not designed by Jesus to be a v_____ of the Law (seeing us as going "against" Mosaic Law)
2. Was designed by Jesus to be the f_____ of the Law (Jesus is our sacrifice; He makes us clean; He sets us apart from the world; He is our priest; etc.)
3. God designed the Law of Moses from the beginning with the M_____ in mind (Matt 5:17)

Healing of the centurion's servant – Jesus came to s_____ the world (5-13)

●This healing was unique in two ways (5-9)

1. The request for healing was from a R_____, not a Jew
2. The healing was done without Jesus t_____ the person, but from a distance by a simple word.

●Jesus makes two shocking statements (10-12)

1. That He had not seen in all of Israel anyone with greater f_____ (a Gentile surpassing a Jew in faith!)
2. That many Gentiles will dine at the heavenly s_____ with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
3. That Jews will be cast out into eternal t_____ (not all, but those who had a false faith).

●Jesus came to save the world in the sense of saving people from every t_____, tongue, nation, and class (Rev 5:9,10)

1. God uses the message of the g_____ to save people (Rom 1:16)
2. God uses believers to spread the message of the gospel
 - a. Your personal w_____ in word and deed
 - b. Your cooperative g_____ in supporting mission work.
 - c. Your fervent p_____ for the lost.

Healing of the multitude – Jesus came to s_____ for us (14-17)

- Jesus reaches His home base in Capernaum, P_____’s home.
 1. He heals Peter’s m_____
 2. He heals _____ who were ill that were brought to Him (no exceptions). How could anyone not embrace Jesus as the Messiah?
- Matthew quotes Is 53:4a
 1. This is the only place in the entire chapter that mentions the ministry of this servant – a ministry of h_____.
 2. However, Matthew is not quoting this to point out His ministry but His identity as the s_____ servant, which is what Is 53 is all about.
- Jesus came to s_____ for us so that we do not suffer any effects of sin.
 1. At the moment of faith in Christ, Jesus resurrects you from spiritual d_____ to spiritual life (your spirit is made alive – Rom 8:10; I Cor 6:17).
 2. At the moment of the return of Christ, Jesus will resurrect you from physical d_____ to physical life (Rom 8:11; I Cor 15:50-55).
 3. All e_____ of sin will be removed forever (Rev 21:40).

Conclusion:

- The Messiah’s miraculous healings foreshadowed what He came to do. Here how it plays out from our standpoint:
 1. Past – He has fulfilled the Law and so we fulfill it by f_____ in Him.
 2. Present – He is in the process of saving people across the w_____
 3. Future – He will remove all effects of sin at His c_____
- When will Jesus return? - Not until the g_____ is preached to ALL the people groups of the world (Matt 24:14; Rev 5:9,10).
 1. God is preparing the world ahead of the gospel message, so when they hear, they will believe (Rom 10:17)
 2. This should motivate us to pray, give, and live in a way that demonstrates that we really believe that Jesus will save people from every people group.