

Sermon Outline Notes

May 31, 2026

Be Clean!

Matthew 8:1-17

Main Truth: The authority and power of Jesus to bring healing and deliverance is the same authority and power that brings us new life through salvation.

Matthew 7:24, 26, 28-29; 8:1 After Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the people recognized there was something powerful and different about this man whose words carried an authority they had never heard before. At this time large crowds of people began to follow him.

The Plight of the Leper

Matthew 8:2 The man with leprosy came to Jesus with an incurable disease which made him an outcast. Regardless of who a person was, once they were determined to have leprosy, they were quarantined from the rest of society to keep the disease from spreading. They were pronounced "unclean" by the priest according to the law in Leviticus 13 and 14. This man had been removed from his family and village. He was shunned from interaction with other people.

The Request of the Leper "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." He asked of Jesus what humanly speaking was impossible - to be made clean of the disease of leprosy.

The leper approached Jesus:

- in humility. He knelt or bowed before Him showing an attitude of worship and submission. He called Jesus, Lord.
- with the absolute trust that Jesus could cleanse him of leprosy. "You can make me clean."
- in submission to the will of Jesus. He was not arrogant or demanding in his request. "Lord, if you are willing you can make me clean." He recognized the will of Jesus superseded all other outcomes and His authority and power were what could cure him.

The Response of Jesus Matthew 8:3 "I am willing" "Be Clean" – Jesus showed compassion to this leper. He reached out and physically touched the untouchable responding to the human need of the man's brokenness. Jesus, God incarnate, God in the flesh, fully God and fully human demonstrated that He was beyond the limitations of human diseases.

Jesus responded according to His will. He showed compassion. He is the sovereign God, creator, and Lord.

The will of Jesus is always the foundations of His response to our requests and acts only according to His ultimate will. Even when we don't understand the 'why' of God's answers, we can still trust in the perfection of it from His Kingdom's perspective.

John 6:38 The will of the Father flows through and is the source of the will of the Son.

1 John 5:13-15 Jesus touched the leper and spoke the words "be clean" and the leprosy was gone. This was a miracle direct from the will of the Father through the power and authority of His Son.

The Directive from Jesus **Matthew 8:4** Jesus, after healing the man, asked only two things of him: don't tell anyone and present yourself to the priests so they can designate you as clean according to the Jewish Law.

God gave specific instructions to Moses regarding leprosy found in Leviticus 13 and 14. If someone was cured of leprosy, they were required to present themselves to the priest so they could be examined and declared clean before they could enter back into society.

Mark 1:45 In an instant this man's life is renewed, reborn by the touch and word of Jesus. Instead of not telling anyone "he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news." As a result "Jesus could not enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places." Even then, people from all over continued to come to him.

Jesus was not seeking crowds looking for His miracles alone. Humans tend to focus on the temporary fix and miss what is eternally important. Christ's mission was to bring a greater cleansing than just physical healing. He was bringing a cleansing and forgiveness of sins and a relationship which brings salvation and His Lordship into our lives.

The Centurion

Matthew 8:5-6 **Luke 7:1-10** The centurion was a friend of the Jews, a God-fearer, a Gentile sympathizer to the Jewish faith.

He was the commander of a unit of sixty to one-hundred men. He lived a life dependent on the flow of authority to the commands of superiors, his obedience to those who ranked above him and obedience to him by those who served under him.

When the centurion approached Jesus with his request, he recognized the authority of Jesus, a Jewish teacher known for doing miraculous things.

Matthew 8:7 Jesus responds according to His will and sovereignty.

Matthew 8:8-9 The centurion demonstrates his faith and understanding of one who is in a position of authority.

The Approach of the Centurion

The Centurion expressed a deep compassion for a subordinate, his servant, and a faith in Jesus' authority and power. His servant is paralyzed and without hope of being healed. In Matthew 4:24 Jesus is healing those who were paralyzed and it is very likely the Centurion had heard about Jesus' power over disease.

He understood human authority in what is ordered to be done, is done without questions. He knew that Jesus had a power and a supernatural authority over all disease. If Jesus says it is to be gone, it will be gone. Jesus only had to speak the command and it would be done.

The Centurion also respected the Jewish traditions of Jesus and understood that if Jesus were to enter his home, the home of a Gentile, a Jew would be ceremonially unclean. He knew that because of His authority Jesus' command could be carried out even at a distance. He just needed to speak the command and it would be done.

The Response of Jesus

Matthew 8:10 Jesus was amazed at the Centurion's level of faith. This was kingdom level faith that made entrance into God's Kingdom possible. The kind of faith Jesus was looking for in Israel.

Matthew 8:11-12 The coming kingdom is often described in terms of a feast, a wedding feast. Matthew 22:1-14, Isaiah 25:6, Revelation 19:7-10. Entrance into this feast was based strictly on having faith in the person of Jesus.

Those thinking their religious background would automatically gain them entrance would be turned out into a place which Jesus described as hell. Matthew 8:12, 22:13 13:42, 13:50, 24:51

Matthew 8:13 Jesus responds to the physical need of the Centurion's servant. He shows compassion, power and authority by instantly healing the servant by His word alone.

Matthew 8:14-15 Jesus responds to the physical need of Peter's mother-in-law and touched her hand and she was completely healed.

Matthew 8:16-17 Jesus healed the sick and delivered many people who were demon-possessed demonstrating his divinity. The love of God was being shown in a fallen world. Jesus was fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies about the promised Messiah. Isaiah 53:4

Application

- **Recognize and be encouraged by the love and compassion of Jesus' absolute power and authority.** Jesus has compassion, knows the suffering we face, and can supernaturally change our lives today just like he did with the sick and demon possessed when He walked on earth.
- **Recognize our personal brokenness because of sin.** God's Word tells us we are dead in our sin. If we acknowledge our sin, repent, turn away from our sin and proclaim Jesus as Lord of lives we are reborn and given life.
- **Put our trust in the absolute power and authority of Jesus.** Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He was buried and then resurrected from the dead. He alone has the power and authority for our salvation – Jesus is the Saviour of the world.
- **Live in submission to the power and authority of His sovereign will.** We need to trust in Jesus as both our Savior and as our Lord. He is always working according to His will. His spiritual healing is forever.

Part of the way we live in submission to Jesus is by allowing ourselves to be discipled in our faith. To walk side by side with others who can help us grow and recognize the power and presence of our Savior each day.

Small Group Discussion Questions

Be Clean! Matthew 8:1-17

1. Share with your group something you have seen or experienced that “amazed you”.

Matthew 8:1-4 The leper

2. Read Leviticus 13:45 Discuss what life must have been like with a person with leprosy in the Jewish community.
3. What motivated the leper to approach Jesus despite the social and religious risks?
4. How does Jesus’ response ("I am willing") contrast with the leper’s request ("if you are willing")?
5. Why did Jesus instruct the man to show himself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded? Even though Jesus opposed the legalistic practice of the Jewish religious leaders, why would he ask the healed leper to follow the practice of the law?

Matthew 8:5-13 The Centurion

6. What made the centurion’s faith distinct from what Jesus had seen in Israel?
7. How did the centurion understand Jesus’ authority compared to his own military chain of command?
8. What is the significance of Jesus stating that many will come from east and west to feast with Abraham, while some "subjects" are excluded?

Matthew 8:14-17 Peter’s Mother-in-Law and other healings

9. Why is it significant that Jesus healed the sick and cast out demons "by the word" without physical contact?
10. How does Matthew 8:17 link these miracles to Isaiah 53:4, and what does this reveal about Jesus' mission?
11. In what way was humility, trust and submission demonstrated by the individuals who experienced or witnessed the healing miracles that Jesus performed.
12. Discuss how each of the miracles Jesus performed authenticate His power, authority, and sovereign will.
13. After studying these verses in Matthew, is there anything that Jesus cannot heal?

Personal Study Guide

Healing Bible Verses

Read the following Bible verses which focus on healing. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring you comfort and reassurance that God will be there in times of despair and suffering. Pray that you will find encouragement, strength, and comfort as you trust God's healing power.

1 Peter 2:24

Isaiah 40:29

Psalms 147:3

James 5:14-15

Jeremiah 17:14

Psalms 103:2-3

Isaiah 53:5

Matthew 10:1

Mark 5:34

3 John 1:2

Jeremiah 30:17

Jeremiah 33:6

Psalms 6:2

Psalms 41:3

Proverbs 17:22