

## What Kind of Man is This?

## Matthew 8:18-27

**Main Truth:** The cost of discipleship is high, but Jesus is worth following

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talks about where we put our faith, who we trust in.

**Matthew 7:24** By trusting in God alone, we know that our house can stand since it is built on a firm foundation.

**Matthew 7:26** By trusting in something else, we find ourselves on shaky ground.

Matthew will next reveal the raw authority of Jesus and why His words are worth putting into practice. The cost to follow Jesus is high, but He is worth following.

After the sermon was completed, Jesus miraculously healed a man with leprosy as well as healing the servant of a centurion. These men recognized who this man was and put their faith in Him alone. He is God in the flesh. He is the only one who can truly rescue and heal.

The proper response to knowing Christ is obedience and faith.

**Matthew 8:18-19** Jesus does not make following Him easy. He crosses the lake to the other side. Quality and relationship are the focus of Christ. He was not seeking popularity and large crowds. A scribe approaches Jesus and verbally says he is committed to following Him.

**Matthew 8:20** Jesus knows the heart of the scribe and sees a different commitment and his true intentions.

**Matthew 8:21** Another person approaches Jesus with the desire to follow Him, but his attention is elsewhere, he has other things to do first.

How different were the responses of these two men from those of the fishermen who Jesus called to follow Him. They immediately dropped what they were doing and followed Him.

**Matthew 8:22** Jesus' response addresses which is the higher calling. Which is the higher duty. No earthly duty can take precedence over this duty to follow him. Jesus makes it clear that He is worth following despite the high cost it may require of us.

As Jesus calls out to us "follow me", what is our response and what would He sense inside of us. Who do I abide in? What am I attached to?

**Matthew 8:23-24** Jesus and his disciples got into a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. Being human, Jesus is physically tired from preaching his sermon and interacting with the crowd of people. He falls into a deep sleep and even a violent storm at sea could not wake him.

**Matthew 8:25** The storm was so great and the sea so rough that the disciples thought they were going to die. They woke Jesus up asking him to save them. He does not panic and is unsurprised by the circumstances surrounding him. God is never surprised by our circumstances.

**Matthew 8:26** Jesus knew there was no reason to fear. He is the one who offers peace in the midst of uncertainty. Trust was something that the disciples should have developed with Christ at this point, but human nature is hard to resist. We find ourselves moved by the waves of our own self-destructive tendencies, selfishness, loss and grief.

Christ never left the disciples even though they may have felt he abandoned their safety and well-being by not immediately responding to the storm. God does not respond to difficulties in the same way as we do. How often do we find ourselves so caught up in the fear of what might come, or happen next, when Christ is already in the boat with us and will not leave us.

Jesus did not immediately fix their situation by calming the storm. He was focused on them trusting in Him. This was intentional on his part. We can put our faith in Christ. Abide in Him. Trust His timing, no matter how long it takes.

Jesus' response to the two followers earlier was to follow Him with all our heart and now we see that we need to trust Jesus with all our heart. Jesus spoke peace into the person before He made the circumstances peaceful.

**Matthew 8:27** "What kind of man is this?" He is the Savior of the world, the Son of David, the promised Messiah, the Word, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the Resurrection, the King of Kings. We must all ask this question and then choose to put our faith in Him.

In all His splendor, do I choose to follow Him? In what He paid for my sins, do I choose to give my life to Him?

Being a disciple of Jesus comes with a high cost. If I believe what the Bible says, the only answer is that He is worthy to be followed and to leave it all behind.

**Main Truth:** The cost of discipleship is high, but Jesus is worth following

**Application:**

Listen to the voice of Christ and follow Him

# Small Group Discussion Questions

## What Kind of Man is This? Matthew 8:18-27

1. What is the worst storm of nature that you have experienced? Anyone remember the Columbus Day Storm October 12, 1962. Pressure 960 millibars and winds above 100 mph.

### Matthew 8:18-22 The Cost of Following Jesus

2. How did the teacher of the law address Jesus and what was his stated intention regarding following Him? How did Jesus' response address the security of following Him?
3. Who approached Jesus in verse 21 with a request, and what condition did he place on his discipleship? How did Jesus respond to the man who wanted to bury his father, and how does this address the priority of the Kingdom?
4. What are some of the reasons (excuses), we come up with, why we cannot follow Jesus today?
5. The number one excuse heard today why someone cannot join a small group, disciple someone or be discipled, serve, join a Bible Study, spend time in the Word each day etc. is: I Don't Have Time. Discuss why or why this is not a valid excuse (reason).

### Matthew 8:23-27

6. What happened to the sea while the disciples were crossing, and how did it affect the boat?
7. How was Jesus behaving during the storm in verse 24, and how did the disciples react?
8. What did the disciples say to Jesus in verse 25, and what was Jesus' response regarding their fear and faith?
9. How did Jesus rebuke the winds and the sea, and what was the immediate result? In what way does this verse encourage you as you face storms in your life? Discuss the importance that in the midst of the storm the disciples faced, Jesus never left them.
10. "What kind of man is this?" What does this reveal about the disciples growing understanding of Jesus' identity? How would you answer this question?
11. Jesus' response to the scribe and the potential disciple was to follow Him with all their heart. Jesus' response to the storm-tossed disciples was to trust Him with all their heart. In what ways do you follow and trust Jesus?
12. What are the "storms" in your life that require you to exercise faith in Jesus' authority and presence? How can your small group encourage and help you in the midst of these storms?

# **Personal Study Guide**

## **The Cost of Following Jesus**

### **Obedience and Immediate Commitment**

Matthew 8:18-22

### **Self-Denial and Sacrifice**

Luke 9:23:

Matthew 16:24

Mark 8:34

Luke 14:27

### **Counting the Cost and Surrender**

Luke 14:28

Luke 14:33

Matthew 16:26

Matthew 10:39

### **Prioritizing Christ Over Worldly Attachments**

Matthew 10:37

Matthew 6:24:

Galatians 2:20

Philippians 3:8