

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

JESUS IS KING



Healing Continued

Text: Matthew 8:5-17

1. Jesus and a Roman centurion. - Matthew 8:5-6

The centurion was obviously a Gentile, because a **centurion** was an officer in the Roman army. Most every Jew under Roman occupation felt a reason to hate this **centurion**, yet he came to a Jewish teacher for help.

This centurion had an unusual attitude towards his slave. Under Roman law a master had the right to kill his slave, and it was expected that he would do just that if the slave became ill or injured to the point where he could no longer work.

2. The Authority of Jesus - Matthew 8:7-9

Jesus did not hesitate to go to the centurion's house! He said right away, I will come!

It was completely against Jewish custom for a Jew to enter a Gentiles' house; yet it was not against God's law.

The centurion recognized this when he said, "**Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof**".

In his concern for both his servant and for Jesus, this centurion was an others-centered person.

But speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed: The centurion knew Jesus had true *authority*, and could command things to be done outside His immediate presence.

The centurion showed great faith in Jesus' **word**. He understood that Jesus can heal with His **word** just as easily as with a touch.

3. Great Faith - Matthew 8:10-13

The man's understanding of Jesus' spiritual authority made Jesus marvel. This was truly **great faith**, worthy of praise.

Jesus considered the faith of this Gentile centurion – who was a living symbol of Jewish oppression – and thought it greater than any faith He had seen among the people of **Israel**.

Jesus reminded his Jewish listeners that just as the Gentile's racial identity was no automatic barrier to the kingdom, *their* racial identity was no guarantee of the kingdom.

Though Jews were **children of the kingdom**, they might end up in hell.

Jesus was not afraid to speak about hell, and in fact talked more about hell than any other subject in the Bible.

4. Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law. - Matthew 8:14-15

Jesus healed this woman with a gentle touch of His hand. Her sickness was much less severe than the leper, yet Jesus still cared for her. Jesus cares for smaller problems also.

And she arose, and ministered unto them: Peter's mother-in-law showed a fitting response for those who have been touched by Jesus' power – she immediately began to serve.

Serving Jesus is a wonderful evidence of being restored to spiritual health.

5. Jesus heals many others - Matthew 8:16-17

They brought unto him many: Jesus' care is shown by the implication that Jesus dealt with each person individually. He cares about you!

Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses: The provision for our healing (both physically and spiritually) was made by the sufferings (the *stripes*) of Jesus.

The physical part of our healing will be fully realized in resurrection.

This healing work of our Savior *cost* Jesus something. It came at the cost of His own agony.

From all this, we understand that physical healing is an area where God especially shows His sovereignty, and He does things as He pleases, not necessarily as men might expect.