

Message Notes

What Kind of Man is This?
Gospel of Matthew, Part 36
Matthew 8:18-34

Message Outline

What Kind of Man is This?
Gospel of Matthew, Part 36
Matthew 8:18-34 January 30, 2005

I. Following Jesus by Faith creates a NEW CENTER

- A. Reshaping a Scribe's security and comfort center.
- B. Redefining a Disciple's relational center.
- C. Rebuilding who we are: priorities, values, loyalties, pleasures, fears, direction, goals, plans, expectations, loves and future.

II. Following Jesus by Faith gives a NEW SAFETY

- A. The God calls us to follow Him through the storms of life.
- B. The God who is there in the storms of life.
- C. The God who seems to sleep during the storms of life.
- D. The God who stills the storms of life.

III. Following Jesus by Faith involves a FEW SURPRISES

- A. Jesus says things and does things that we can't explain.
- B. Jesus meets us where we are with what we need, but never how we expect.
- A. Jesus cares more for our spiritual well-being than our material well being.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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Matthew 8:18-34

1. Read Matthew 8:18-34 together dividing it into three parts by the 3 vignettes. We saw the healing authority of Jesus in 1-17. What kind of authority does Jesus show here? Who and what obeys Him? To whom does He speak? In which verses?
2. Verses 1-17 show men and women “coming to Jesus”, but in 18-34, the emphasis shifts. What is the emphasis now? How do we know? What are indications in the text?
3. In v. 18-22 Jesus meets two men just where they are, but in different ways. How is He informing each that following Him involves putting Him first at the very center of our lives? What was the different hang-up for each of the men? In other words, what was more important than their commitment to Jesus?
4. When the disciples follow Jesus in v. 23, what does that mean for them? Where does it take them? Why was their faith called “little” by Jesus? (compare the Centurion’s faith in v. 10) Is this a statement about the quantity or about the quality of their faith? How did following Jesus make them unsafe in one way, but also safe in a new way? How is that true for us as we follow Jesus?
5. Throughout v. 18-34, but especially in 28-34, how does Jesus say and do things that we can’t explain? How is Jesus never what we expect, but always what we need.

Growth Group Application Questions

What Kind of Man is This?

Gospel of Matthew, Part 36

Matthew 8:18-34

1. Personally, what grabbed you in this passage? What spoke to your heart or challenged your faith?
2. How is following Jesus a decision? How is following Jesus a journey? Is following Jesus optional? Is it possible to accept Jesus as Savior, but not follow Him as Lord?
3. How has/is Jesus reshaping, redefining and rebuilding your priorities, values, loyalties, pleasures, fears, direction, goals, plans, expectations, loves and future around Himself? Share one specific example of how you have or how you are seeing that happen?
4. What kinds of “storms of life” have you or are you experiencing in your life? Compare what it’s like to not follow Jesus and to follow Jesus through a storm of life. How does following Jesus remove our safety and give us a new safety?
5. Why does God sometimes appear to sleep through the storms of our life?
6. As we follow Jesus by faith, how and why do our fears sometimes get the best of us? What can we do when we fear and our faith is “little”?
7. How has following Jesus involved a few surprises for you? What unanswered questions hang out there for you? How has Jesus demonstrated that He cares more about your spiritual well-being than your material well-being?