

## Matthew 8-9

Jesus touches the untouchable

Healing stories –

- reinforce the authority of Jesus
- show Jesus is at home with the marginalised
- motivate discipleship

Jesus heals the centurion's servant – shows faith of Gentiles. They qualify to be part of the reign of God

➤ Jesus congratulates faith/trust

The earliest disciples saw Jesus as the Suffering Servant of Isaiah (53:4-5)

### *Jesus always stresses priorities*

Calming the storm – Jesus is presented as doing what God can do.

The sea is associated with the demons of the deep – only God has power over them

Matthew portrays Jesus as **WISDOM** in the flesh

Matthew the tax collector follows Jesus – eating with sinners. Meals are ideal for exercising influence.

Jesus is working to restore Judaism.

Woman with the haemorrhage – Jesus embraces her need. Her trust and courage are congratulated

Two blind men – recognise Jesus as Messiah. The physically blind have spiritual sight.

Opponents of Jesus resort to ridicule when they cannot find fault with him.

Matthew 9:35-38 – summary statement of Jesus' ministry

Highlights

- Compassion of Jesus
- Jesus is critical of the religious leadership
- He recognises the people are harassed and

## Matthew 10

Jesus sends his disciples out – careful of local customs. He empowers them / warns of opposition.

- Families will be divided as some embrace Jesus and others reject him. Statement of experience

**Matthew 11** signs of the Messiah. A person is identified by what they do

- A person is known and recognised by their circle of relationships

Jesus' discourse on John – prophets are rejected when they upset people or don't meet expectations.

**Matthew 12** Jesus represents a reversal of values. He again stresses priorities and criticises hypocrisy.

### *People before regulations*

Jesus has a more perceptive and sensitive reading of Scripture than the Pharisees.

Jesus reaches out to the powerless, oppressed and abused.

*The worst prison would be a closed heart*

St John Paul II

*A mind committed to compassion is like an overflowing reservoir –*

*a constant source of energy, determination and kindness*

Dalai Lama

*If you want to know someone's mind listen to their words.*

*If you want to know their heart, watch their actions*

The empty house – we need to feed our minds with good reading and good conversation.

- Jesus provokes us to think more deeply.

Jesus respects his female disciples and prioritises commitment.