

Matthew 8:1–4 (NRSV) (Mk 1:40–45; Lk 5:12–16)

8 When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him;
2 and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.” 3 He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I do choose. Be made clean!” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
4 Then Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

Jesus encounters the marginalised

Healing stories

- were told to motivate and enhance discipleship
- reinforce the authority of Jesus mentioned at the end of ch 7

Leper

- Is desperate
- Approaches Jesus with trust and humility

JESUS

- Prepared to heal and touch the untouchable
- Acts out of compassion – shares the leper’s uncleanness
- Seeks no honour for himself

Centurion

- shows unusual trust and readiness to humble himself
- acknowledges Jesus' authority

Jesus congratulates the centurion

- ~ implies his listeners have little faith
- ~ implies ritual purity has no place in the reign of God

Matthew

- introduces Gentiles as qualifying to be part of the reign of God
- Israelites have no guarantee

Matthew 8:5–13 (NRSV)

(Lk 7:1–10)

⁵ When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him ⁶ and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress.” ⁷ And he said to him, “I will come and cure him.” ⁸ The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.” ¹⁰ When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, “Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.” And the servant was healed in that hour.

Matthew 8:14–17 (NRSV)
4:38–41)

(Mk 1:29–34; Lk

¹⁴ When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; ¹⁵ he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. ¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he **cast out the spirits** with a word, and cured all who were sick. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "**He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.**"

**The earliest disciples saw Jesus
in the Suffering Servant of Isaiah**

*Jesus takes the
initiative to heal*

Demons were seen
as lesser evil spirits



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Isaiah 53:4–5 (NRSV)

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

Would-be disciples

Jesus does not discourage the scribe but warns him of the itinerant lifestyle of his disciples

Wisdom

rejected – has no home

JESUS

- ❖ does not trivialize the importance of family obligations
- ❖ is not dismissive of law or custom, but
- ❖ reinforces priorities – following Jesus is above other responsibilities

(Lk 9:57–62)

¹⁸ Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. ¹⁹ A scribe then approached and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”

²⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

²¹ Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ²² But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

Not following Jesus = spiritually dead

The Call of Wisdom

Proverbs 1:20–33 (NRSV)

- ²⁰ Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
- ²¹ At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
- ²² “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
- ²³ Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
- ²⁴ Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
- ²⁵ and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
- ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
- ³⁰ would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
- ³¹ therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.

Matthew 9:1–8 (NRSV) (*Mk 2:1–12; Lk 5:17–26*)

9 ¹ And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town.

² And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” ³ Then some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” ⁴ But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? ⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.” ⁷ And he stood up and went to his home. ⁸ When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

Note: Connection between sin and sickness

כְּבִלְדֵּי חַיִּים : עֲבָשׁ לִי שְׁמִי

Jesus is God's Wisdom in the flesh

Deeds of power authenticate Jesus' authority

B'rakhah

*Barukh attah Adonai
elohenu melekh haolam*

Blessed are you Lord our
God, everlasting king

Why is he eating and drinking
with tax collectors and sinners?

Those who are healthy do not
need a physician, but those who
are seriously sick.

There is great potential in these
people and I can help them.

All I am doing is giving them an
invitation to follow

Levi/Mattityahu represents
Jesus' personal call to the
outcast and despised sinners

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Matthew 9:14–17 (NRSV) (*Mk 2:18–22; Lk 5:33–39*)

¹⁴ Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?”

¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷ Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but **new** wine is put into **fresh** wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

Jesus suggests: **the eschatological time has come**

Old cloak = Judaism

Faith in Jesus as Messiah is not breaking away from Judaism but has a home in authentic Judaism

New Testament faith has Jewish roots

Only a restored, reconditioned Judaism can accommodate Yeshua

Desperate official
humbles himself to beg
healing for his daughter

Matthew 9:18–22 (NRSV)
(*Mk 5:21–43; Lk 8:40–56*)

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.

²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.”

²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.

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The woman touches the
tzitziyot on Jesus clothing

The purity of Yeshua removes
the woman’s impurity

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Jesus

- Embraces her need
- Welcomes her
- Congratulates her trust – no magic

²³ When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Usual mourning customs

~ with professional mourners and hired musicians

Jesus shows exceptional kindness and disregard for ritual uncleanness

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Matthew abbreviates his Markan source omitting the vivid details and freshness of Mark's narrative

Matthew 9:27–31 (NRSV)

²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” ²⁸ When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” ²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.” ³⁰ And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, “See that no one knows of this.” ³¹ But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.

**Physically blind
with spiritual sight**

‘Son of David’ – **indicates faith**

Jesus’ question confirms faith

**They are healed
because of the depth of
their trust**

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Note: The importance of a relationship of faith/trust for healing

Jesus' approach and
ministry are unique


³² After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. ³³ And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, “Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.” ³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons.”

Ridicule – the only tactic left to
Jesus' opponents

Matthew 9:35–38 (NRSV) (*Lk 10:2–3*)

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had **compassion** for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”



Summary statement of
Jesus' mission

Leadership was not only
lacking but destructive

The mission does not
belong to Jesus alone

He paves the way for the
disciples

Ezekiel 34:4–5 (NRSV)

⁴ You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. ⁵ So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals.