

# matthew experiencing the presence of the Kingdom

----> **connect...** Psalm 147 draws us into the presence of our powerful Father. Meditate on His sustaining power as you praise Him through Psalm 147. Start with Psalm 147:1-4.

----> **discover...** The Sermon on the Mount laid out the principles of Jesus' ministry. In the next few chapters of Matthew we will see the power of His ministry.

1. Read Matthew 7:28-29. Why were the crowds amazed at Jesus' teaching? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus performed miracles for several reasons (1) to show compassion; (2) to prove His power; (3) to reveal saving truth to people. Most often His miracles were "sermons in action." Read Matthew 8:1-4.
  - a. Who was following Jesus now? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Who came to Him? What did he ask? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What do you know about leprosy? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What was Jesus' response? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Read Matthew 8:5-13.
  - a. What did the centurion (a Roman military officer, a Gentile) say to Jesus in verse 6? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How did Jesus respond? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Summarize the centurion's reply from verses 8 and 9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Why was Jesus astonished? What did He say to His followers? (Note: the Israelites believed there was no doubt that they would be at this feast in heaven, and they believed no Gentile would be allowed in.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. What did He say to the centurion in verse 13? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Read Matthew 8:14-17. What miracle did Jesus perform at Peter's house? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Then what happened? (vs. 16-17) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What prophecy did he fulfill? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Jesus was astonished at the faith of the Gentile centurion. Would He be astonished at yours? Do you believe God can handle any trial or crisis in your life? The leper felt unworthy to be touched by anyone ("if you are willing"), but his faith gave him boldness to ask. Jesus wants to hear our cries. Tell Him what's on your heart today.

----> **apply...** Think back over the last year. Did you face any impossible situations? Did God intervene and help you? In what way? Answer this in your journal and give Him thanks. Begin learning Matthew 8:26.

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----> **connect...** Praise God with Psalm 147:5-9.

----> **discover...**

1. Read Matthew 8:18-20.

- a. Why did Jesus want to cross the lake? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Who approached Jesus as He was preparing to cross the lake? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. The teacher thought he wanted to follow Jesus. Why do you think Jesus was so popular at this point? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. What was Jesus' reply in verse 20? How does that strike you? \_\_\_\_\_

2. From Matthew 8:21-22 what principle of "followership" do you think Jesus is proclaiming? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Matthew 8:23-27.

- a. Did the storm come because of disobedience? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Why did the disciples wake up Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What was His reply? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. How did the men respond? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. When are you most likely to doubt? \_\_\_\_\_
- f. What's this passage saying to you? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Matthew 8:28-34 describes quite a scene. What was it? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. What did the demons call Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Were they aware of His power? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. How did the town respond? Why do you think they had this response? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Jesus knows that following Him will cost us (v. 20). He knows that following Him will lead to trials of our faith (v.26). He also knows that these hardships are only temporary. He wants us to seek Him and His kingdom (Matthew 6:33). Have you considered the cost of following Him? Talk to Him about these costs.

----> **apply...** In your journal, write about whatever storm you are facing. Will you call on Jesus in faith trusting Him to calm the storm? Keep learning Matthew 8:26.

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----> **connect...** What brings delight to your Father? Psalm 147:10-11 (Note: “fear” means to have an attitude of reverence or awe).

----> **discover...** In Matthew 9 Jesus is back in His hometown. Read verses 1-8.

1. From verses 1 and 2:
  - a. Who brought the paralytic to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What detail does Mark add in his account in Mark 2:1-12? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Whose faith does Jesus acknowledge? (Matt. 9:2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What does Jesus say to the paralytic? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Re-read Matthew 9:3-8. How did the teachers of the law react? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. What does Jesus ask them? (v. 4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Jesus states that He has the power to forgive sins and He proves He has the power to heal. How did the crowd respond? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Read about how our writer, Matthew, was called in 9:9-13. Summarize what happened. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Who came to eat with them? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What did the Pharisees think of this? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Listen carefully to Jesus’ response. Why did he come? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What does He tell the Pharisees to do? (He is quoting from Hosea 6:6). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. What’s the difference? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Jesus loves people. He has mercy on them. He longs to bring them into a relationship with Himself. He had dinner with the “low-lives” of Capernaum—to minister to them. What does this tell you about your King? Express your love to Him.

----> **apply...** Can you think of someone who may feel rejected as an outcast from society? Pray about taking Jesus’ love to them. Keep learning Matthew 8:26.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 147:12-20. Who's in control? Praise Him!

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 9:14-17.

1. How does Jesus respond to the question of fasting? (v. 15) \_\_\_\_\_

a. What do you think Jesus is saying in verses 16 and 17? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Their old religion was "dried up" and confining. Jesus is bringing "newness." He wants a relationship, not a religion (see v. 13). This is radical—it's not based on performance (sacrifice), but mercy. Do you see the difference? Share your thoughts and/or questions.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Matthew 9:18-26.

a. What posture did the ruler take before Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What happened on the way to the ruler's house? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Read about this in Mark 5:24-34. What do you learn about your King from this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Read about the ruler in Mark 5:35-43.

i. What did Jesus say to him when his friends told him his daughter was dead? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ii. Who did Jesus take with Him? \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Summarize the rest of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

iv. What do you learn about your King here? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Jesus has proven His power over physical illness (Matthew 8:17); He has proven His power over supernatural forces (8:32); He has stated that He has power over sin (9:2); and He has proven He has power over death (9:22). Is He worthy of our praise? Is He worthy to be trusted? Is He worthy to be followed? Express your heart to your King.

----> **apply...** Continue learning Matthew 8:26. Are you afraid? Talk to your compassionate King.

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----> **connect...** Read all of Psalm 147 aloud in prayer. Add your own comments and responses to His glory.

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 9:27-34.

1. What happened with the blind men? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a. Did they obey Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What happened to the man who was demon-possessed and couldn't speak? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a. Who did the Pharisees attribute this miracle to? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Read Matthew 9:35-38. As Jesus traveled through the towns what did he see? \_\_\_\_\_
- a. What did He do? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What did He preach? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Jesus say to His disciples? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a. How does Jesus see the harvest? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Who planted the harvest? Who prepared the field? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What are disciples of Jesus to harvest (see John 4:36)? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Jesus sees the needs of the people. They need a Savior (the good news) and they are "ripe" to receive Him. He wants His disciples to enjoy the blessings of harvesting prepared souls. What does He tell them to pray for? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Could we be part of the answer? Share your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Can you imagine the plan of God to use us to bring in His harvest? Why? What an incredible privilege full of blessing and rejoicing! Are you ready to harvest? Are you willing to get ready? (See 1 Peter 3:13-15). Discuss this plan with your Father.

----> **apply...** Can you think of someone you know who needs Jesus? Write their name in your journal and begin praying daily for them.

Recite Matthew 8:26.

