

Matthew 8
Part 2 (18-34)
The cost of discipleship

- V. Jesus teaches on the cost of discipleship. (18-22)
- A. Jesus desired to get away from the crowds. (18)
1. This is the same multitude of verse 1.
 2. Jesus was often moved to depart from the crowds. (cf Mk 1:35-37; Lk 4:42; Jn 6:15)
 3. “Commandment” means He gave them an order.
 4. This was an easy way of escape.
 - a. This multitude was more impressed with His miracles than His teaching, it seems.
 - b. The excitement of this crowd could have gotten out of hand.
 - c. This was a common escape of Jesus. (cf 14:22; Mk 4:35, 36; 6:45; 8:13; Lk 8:22)
- B. Two would-be followers are taught the cost of discipleship. (19-22)
1. “A certain scribe” indicates a copier of the law.
 - a. This is unusual for Matthew to show anyone other than the humble following Jesus.
 - b. Most scribes took their place beside the other Jewish leaders. (cf 26:3, 57 27:41; Mk 14:1; Jn 8:3)
 - c. Jesus often condemned their hypocrisy. (cf 9:3, 4; 12:38, 39)
 2. This scribe had not counted the cost. (cf Lk 14:28-30)
 3. He learns that Jesus offers no earthly security. (20)
 - a. The animals have a place for rest and shelter.
 - b. The Son of God had no place to call His own. (cf 2 Cor 8:9)
 4. Another “disciple” learns that Jesus requires absolute priority. (21, 22)
 - a. Here Jesus uses the word “dead” ambiguously.
 - b. The disciple’s father was dead in one sense, those who could bury him were dead in another sense.
 - c. The reason for this answer is a burial was in direct conflict with the command “follow me.”
- Note: This wasn’t an insensitive statement by our Lord. A burial would make this disciple unclean, therefore unusable to Jesus. (cf Num 19:11, 12)
- VI. Jesus calms the storm. (23-27)
- A. Jesus and His disciples enter a ship. (23, 24)
1. They were crossing the Sea of Galilee.
 2. Jesus, weary from a full day of work, falls asleep. (cf Mk 4:38)
- Note: This is the only time it is recorded He slept.
3. Storms were common on this body of water.
 4. A “great tempest” was not uncommon on the Sea of Galilee.
 - a. The word “tempest” can mean earthquake. (cf 24:7; 27:54; 28:2)
 - b. The point is that this was a furious storm (i.e. natural disaster) they encountered.
- B. His disciples feared perishing. (25-27)

1. I think it noteworthy that Jesus had to be awakened from a sound sleep in the terrible storm.
 - a. He trusted in God totally, His disciples did not.
 - b. Our lesson is to be like Him, not them.
 - c. Later, Peter learned this same type of trust. (cf Acts 12:6, 7)
 - d. Jesus sleeping in the boat while a violent storm rages outside is similar to Jonah's experience. (cf Jonah 1:4, 5)

Note: The difference was that one was the cure for the storm, the other the cause of the storm!
 2. Jesus rebukes their lack of faith.
 - a. This type of rebuke "little faith" is only used for those who should know better. (cf 6:30; 14:31; 16:8)
 - b. The disciples had just seen His power demonstrated in three miracles that very day. (Refer to previous chapter. Page 31)
 3. Jesus calms the storm.
 - a. He spoke the words and the winds stop blowing.
 - b. This showed the power of Jesus over the material world as well as the spiritual world. (cf Ps 33:8, 9; 148:3-5)
 4. The disciples marveled at His great power.
 5. They stood in amazement, as they should, but this also shows their lack of faith. (cf Rom 5:1)
- VII. Jesus drives the demons into a herd of swine. (28-34)
- A. Notice Matthew says there were two men while both Mark and Luke speak of one man. (28) (cf Mk 5:1, 2, 20; Lk 8:26, 27)
 1. Some would make this a contradiction in God's word. His enemies are always looking to condemn the very book we have to save us.
 2. There is no contradiction in the facts. Mark and Luke only speak of the fiercer of the two demon possessed men Jesus encounters.
 - B. The demons acknowledge the greatness of Jesus and recognize His power. (29)
 1. "Son of God" denotes Jesus' close relationship to the father.
 2. "Before the time" means the judgement day. (cf 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6)

Note: It appears Jesus had the power to cast these demons into hell.
 - C. Jesus drives them into a herd of swine. (30-32)
 1. The word "herd" here is usually an unknown number; in this case we are told the number is about two thousand. (cf Mk 5:13)
 2. Jesus allowed the demons to go into the swine and the swine were destroyed.
 - a. This is the only time Jesus destroyed (in the eyes of some) the property of another. (With possible exception, the barren fig tree. Matt 21:19)
 - b. Jesus did not destroy anything thing here. The swine did the drowning all on their own.
 - c. He may have justified this by the fact that to the Jew a pig was unclean. (cf Lev 11:7; Deut 14:8; Isa 65:3, 4)
 - D. The keepers of the swine went to the city and told of the events concerning the swine. (33, 34)
 1. The "whole city" came out either from fear of more judgement on them, or to look upon the awesome spectacle which had happened.

2. They asked Jesus to leave their coasts. (cf Mk 5:17, 18)
 - a. This shows the power Satan has on many. (cf Job 21:14; 22:17)
 - b. Jesus cured a man of demons and all the town's folk could see were the dead, unclean animals.
 - c. Some people love anything and everything more than they love Jesus and what He offers.
 - d. To those people the swine were more valuable than the possessed man.

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