



We are in week eight of a series called “Jesus According to Matthew.” In this series, we are taking a long, slow walk through the book of Matthew. As we unpack what Matthew wrote about the life of Jesus, we will explore what Jesus would say about our world, our culture, and each of our lives. If you weren’t able to hear the sermon this weekend, check it out at firstdecatour.org/jesusaccordingtomatthew

WEEK 8: INTENSITY

This weekend, Pastor Wayne discussed the events of Matthew Chapter 8. The previous four weekends led up to this moment. Jesus was baptized, tempted, called his first disciples, and then gave the Sermon on the Mount. In Chapter 8, we see his ministry begin to take shape in people’s lives. As Chapter 8 begins, the crowds love Jesus, and by the end of the chapter, they are asking him to leave. As the intensity increased with each of Jesus’ actions so did the intensity of following him.



OPENING CONVERSATION

As we begin this week, take a moment to answer these questions:

- ▶ Think of someone you know or have seen who is extremely intense. What is it about that person that makes them so intense?

- ▶ When is intensity a good thing? When can intensity be a bad thing?



BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Read **MATTHEW CHAPTER 8**

This chapter contains some incredible stories about Jesus' power and authority. With each story, the intensity increases. Jesus heals one person, then he heals from a remote location, then he heals a variety of people, then he asks a follower to leave his family behind and follow him. Following that, he takes authority over the wind and the waves and then ultimately casts out demons.

- ▶ As you read through this passage, there is a lot to take in. What do these verses teach us about who Jesus is?
- ▶ Not only do these verses teach us about who Jesus is, they teach what he cares about. Re-think through these verses. What does Jesus care about? What does that mean for you?
- ▶ How did Jesus go from being the crowd's hero in the beginning of the chapter to being rejected by the end? How does that apply to you?



FURTHER DISCUSSION

- ▶ Pastor Wayne talked about how our spiritual intensity can have a similar effect on others. While nobody minds us being spiritual, we can become off-putting once we've truly encountered God and given him our lives. Why is that? How have you experienced that?
- ▶ Pastor Wayne also talked about how our response to this passage is to live spiritually and physically healthy lives so that we can be agents of health in the lives of others. If you were going to make one change to be healthier, what would it be? How would that impact your ability to invest in the lives of others?
- ▶ While the Matthew series will extend through the summer, this will be the final week of these studies. As you reflect on the last 8 weeks, what is your biggest take away?



PRAYER

As you close your time, take time to pray.

- ▶ Pray for this series, that the words and life of Jesus would transform us. Pray that God would use this series to make each of us, and our congregation, more like his Son.
- ▶ Pray for the people of our congregation that we would each make choices to be healthier in order that we may be agents of health in the lives of others.
- ▶ Pray for our church during the next few weeks leading up to Easter that we would all choose to be light and invite others to discover the hope we have in Jesus.