

The Power of the King—Part 4
Matthew 8:18-22

I. **Jesus Warns a Scribe About the Cost of Discipleship (vs. 18-20)**

- a. Jesus needed a rest from the **crowd around Him** (cf. Matt. 8:24; Mark 4:38; Luke 6:12; 8:24)
- b. **a scribe** = an expert and scholar in the Talmud & Torah
 - i. Always shown in a bad light with Pharisees in Matthew (cf. Matt. 2:4; 5:20; 7:29; 23:13-15; 23, 25, 27, 29)
- c. **Teacher** = **didaskalos (διδάσκαλος)** = "one who provides instruction—"teacher, instructor" (cf. Matt. 12:38; 19:16; 22:16, 24, 36)
- d. **the Son of Man** = Jesus' favorite Messianic title for Himself (cf. Matt. 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:8, 32, 40, 13:37, 41; 16:13, 27-28; 17:9, 12, 22, 18:11; 19:28; 20:18, 28; 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44; 25:31; 26:2, 24, 45, 64; Mark 2:10, 28; 8:31, 38; 9:9, 12, 31; 10:33, 45; 13:26; 14:21, 41, 62; Luke 5:24; 6:5, 22; 7:34; 9:22, 26, 44, 56, 58; 11:30; 12:8, 10, 40; 17:22, 24, 26, 30; 18:8, 31; 19:10; 21:27, 36; 22:22, 48, 69; 24:7; John 1:51; 3:13, 14; 5:27; 6:27, 53, 62; 8:28; 9:35; 12:23, 34; 13:31; Acts 7:56; Heb. 2:6; Rev. 1:13; 14:14)
 - i. Most likely referring to Daniel's vision (cf. Dan. 7:13-14)
 - ii. Jesus is fully God and fully man (cf. Ps. 8:4; Phil. 2:6-8)
- e. **nowhere to lay His head** = Jesus owned nothing but the clothes on His back and every disciple must be prepared to LET EVERYTHING GO!!! (cf. 1 John 2:15; James 4:4; Matt. 10:39; 16:24-26; Mark 8:34-35; Luke 9:23; 14:27; John 2:23-25; Gal. 2:20; Phil 3:20; 1 Pet 1:1)
 - i. Jesus repeatedly warned that following Him meant Self-denial, Sacrifice, and Suffering! (cf. Matt. 10:16, 21-22, 24-25; John 16:2; 2 Tim. 3:12; Heb. 11:35-38)
- f. This scribe apparently did not follow Jesus anymore (cf. Matt. 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-27; Luke 18:18-30)

II. **Jesus Warns Another Disciple About the Cost of Discipleship (v. 21-22)**

- a. **disciples** = **mathētēs (μαθητής)** "a person who learns from another by instruction, whether formal or informal" an "apprentice" or "pupil." (cf. Matt. 10:1; 12:49; Luke 14:27; Acts 6:1)
 - i. Often used to describe true disciples but also those who only followed Jesus temporarily (cf. John 6:66)
- b. **Lord** = **kurios (κύριος)**
- c. **permit me first to go and bury my father** = "permit me first to go home and wait until my father dies." (cf. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16; Matt. 15:4; 19:19; Mark 7:10; 10:19; Luke 7:12; Eph. 6:1-3)
- d. **Follow Me** = a call to salvation (cf. Deut. 30:15)
- e. **allow the dead to bury their own dead** = "allow the spiritually dead to bury their own dead"
 - i. Nothing is more important than Jesus, not even your family (cf. Matt. 10:34-35; 12:46-50; Luke 14:26-27)
 - ii. Like our Lord, we are compelled to warn everyone!
- f. **⁶¹ Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home."⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."** (Luke 9:61-62)
 - i. Luke records a third potential disciple who wants to say goodbye to his family, but Jesus uses an agricultural truth to tell him what Elisha learned when Elijah called him to be his disciple; **there is no turning back!** (cf. 1 Kings 19)