

The Power of the King—Part 1 Matthew 8:1-4

Matt. 2:2; 4:9, 10; John 4:20–24; Acts 7:43; Rev 4:10;
19:10)

I. Jesus Came Down From the Mountain (v. 1)

- a. This picks up right after the Sermon on the Mount
- b. The crowds are amazed by Jesus' teaching, but they were probably asking themselves what was His authority
- c. Know that Scripture never contradicts Scripture!
 - i. The three accounts of this miracle differ slightly only because each author was inspired by the Holy Spirit to record different details of the same miraculous event.
 - ii. Also, because these are Gospels and not biographies, the authors also sometimes grouped relevant material and events together to prove their point, not to show a rigid chronological order.

II. A Leper Came to Him (v. 2)

- a. **leper = lepros (λεπρός)** = "flake or scale" (cf. Acts 9:18)
 - i. It referred to many different skin diseases and disorders
 - ii. Since Luke tells us the man was "12... **covered with leprosy...**" (Luke 5:12) this was most likely terminal leprosy and not a less serious issue.
- b. God gave strict instructions on how to deal with leprosy, that involved testing, temporary quarantining, and eventually permanent isolation (cf. Lev. 13 & 14; Num. 5:2)
- c. Lepers were complete social outcasts, spiritual unclean, and shunned by society, so to come to Jesus in a crowd of people was extremely bold and/or desperate!
- d. I'm convinced this man believed that Jesus was the Christ:
 - i. **Lord (kurios / κύριος)** = "Lord, master, sir" (cf. Matt. cf. 15:22; 17:15; 20:30–31)
 - ii. **bowed down to worship (Proskuneō / προσκυνέω)** = "to worship" or "to incline the face to the ground" ! (cf.

III. Jesus' Response (v. 3)

- a. **Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him**
 - i. Jesus mercifully, graciously, and lovingly touched a man who hadn't been touched in ages
 - ii. The Jews saw leprosy as a curse, so this became a beautiful picture of the Gospel (cf. Num. 12:1-15; 2 Chron. 26:16-23; Isa. 1:5-6)
 - iii. That a perfect and holy God would touch the souls of diseased and decadent men is the definition of Grace! (cf. Isa. 53:5; 2 Cor. 5:21)
- b. The man believed in Jesus, but didn't "know" Him yet; that His heart was willing to heal and save (cf. Ezek. 33:11; 18:21-23, 30-32; 1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9)
- c. Jesus healed **immediately (eutheōs / εὐθέως)** = "immediately, right away, at once" (cf. 2 Kings 5:7-10)

IV. Jesus' Instructions (v. 4)

- a. "The Messianic Secret" is no secret at all; Jesus just didn't want His ministry of the Gospel to be overshadowed by His miracles. (cf. Matt. 8:4; 9:30; 12:16; 16:20; 17:9; Mark 1:44-45; 3:12; 5:43; 7:36; 8:30; 9:9; Luke 4:41; 5:14; 8:56; 9:21)
- b. Jesus did not come to destroy the Law so He instructed the man to fulfill it (cf. Lev. 14)
- c. Jesus' healing was to be a **testimony** to the priests of His Kingship!