

In our last lesson, we followed Jesus to Capernaum where “immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching” (Mark 1:21). Do you remember the reaction of those who heard this common-looking son of a carpenter?

They were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. (1:22)

In Matthew 7, when Jesus had finished his most famous message—the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)—a much larger crowd had a very similar reaction.

...the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had _____, and not as their scribes. (7:28-29)

But did Jesus *really* have authority to teach like he did? If so, what kind of authority was it, and where did he get it? Let’s keep reading to see what Matthew tells us next...

When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And behold, a _____ came to him and knelt before him... (Matt 8:1-2)

Leprosy was a highly contagious skin disease. There was no cure for it in the ancient world, and it would eventually kill whoever had it. For many generations, it was well-known what a leper was expected to do according to the Law of Moses (Lev 13:45-46). And yet, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched that leper, cleansing him (Matt 8:2-4). Matthew continues...

When he had entered Capernaum, a _____ came forward to him, appealing to him, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” (8:5-6)

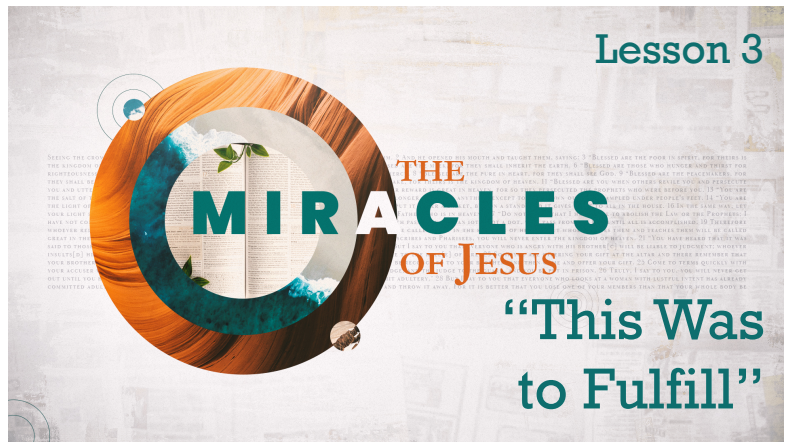
Centurions were Roman officers in charge of a hundred Roman soldiers. This man was a Gentile, in charge of other Gentiles who were in Galilee as an occupying army over the children of Israel. And yet, the centurion refers to Jesus as “_____.” Jesus marvels at the centurion’s faith and humility, and he heals the servant “at that very _____” from a distance (8:7-13).



Matthew goes on to describe how Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law who was sick with a fever (8:14-15) along with many others later that evening (8:16). For now, notice how Matthew connects these events in Matthew 8 to the 700-year-old prophecy in Isaiah 53:4:

This was to _____ what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “_____ took _____ illnesses and bore our diseases.” (8:17)

What does all of this reveal about Jesus and his heart? **Let’s talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

- As you look back and scan Jesus's Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5-7**, what sort of statements do you think his audience would have had in mind as they were “**astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes**” (7:28-29)?

- But did Jesus *really* have authority to teach like he did? If so, what kind of authority was it, and where did he get it? Let's keep those questions in mind as we revisit...
 - **Matthew 8:1-4: Jesus cleanses a leper**
 - ❖ What does this miracle reveal about Jesus's power and authority?

 - ❖ What does this miracle reveal about Jesus's heart for people?

 - ❖ Why do you think Jesus said what he did in **8:4**?

 - **Matthew 8:5-13: Jesus heals a Roman centurion's servant**
 - ❖ What does this miracle reveal about Jesus's power and authority?

 - ❖ What does this miracle reveal about Jesus's heart for people?

 - ❖ Why do you think Jesus said what he did in **8:10-12**?

- What should we make of the dots Matthew connects in **8:17**? He is quoting **Isaiah 53:4**. Turning back to that chapter and looking around at the surrounding verses, what do you see? Of all the passages Matthew could quote, why this one?