

2/22/26

Sermon Title: Jesus Revealing God's Mighty Power

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Matthew 8:1-17

Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy

8 When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.

² A man with leprosy^[a] came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

⁴ Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

The Faith of the Centurion

⁵ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.

⁶ "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"

⁸ The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

Jesus Heals Many

¹⁴ When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.

¹⁵ He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

¹⁶ When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases."

In this chapter, Matthew mentions the healing ministry of Jesus, who came down from the mountain after finishing the Sermon on the Mount.

He introduces events where many who were demon-possessed, sick, and weak were healed.

This is intended to testify that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the Son of God, prophesied in the Old Testament.

The Gospel of Matthew was written for Jews who were well-acquainted with the Old Testament.

To them, Matthew quotes Chapter 53 of the book of Isaiah, stating that Jesus is the very Servant who God promised to send through the prophet Isaiah.

This is the Word from Isaiah:

(Isaiah 53:1) Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

(Isaiah 53:2) He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

(Isaiah 53:3) He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

(Isaiah 53:4) Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

(Isaiah 53:5) But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

After mentioning Jesus' healing ministry, Matthew states that Jesus is the fulfillment of this prophecy.

As Jesus came down from the mountain after the Sermon on the Mount, large crowds, amazed by His authoritative teaching, followed Him.

8 When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.

Jesus healed those among the crowds who were demon-possessed, sick, and weak.

Matthew mentions specific instances where Jesus healed and restored a leper, a centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law, and many others who were afflicted by demons or diseases.

To clearly convey the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, Matthew strips away all unnecessary details and focuses solely on the healing ministry of Jesus.

The Healing of a Leper

At that time, lepers were considered "unclean" and were not allowed to live within the community; they had to live in isolation.

If they encountered someone, they were required to cry out, "Unclean! Unclean!" to prevent others from coming into contact with them.

Anyone who failed to do so was regarded as having committed a capital offense and could be stoned to death.

However, a certain leper came to Jesus. He came forward, prepared to face death. Jesus reached out His hand, touched him, and healed him with the words, "I am willing; be clean."

² A man with leprosy^[a] came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

⁴ Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

According to the Law, when a leper was cleansed, they had to go to the priest to be examined and certified as "clean" before they could be readmitted into the community.

Jesus instructed the man healed of leprosy to go, show himself to the priest, and offer the gift Moses commanded as a testimony.

In doing so, Jesus was following the regulations for cleansing found in the Law, specifically in Leviticus 14.

The Word from Leviticus:

(Leviticus 14:1) The Lord said to Moses,

(Leviticus 14:2) "These are the regulations for any diseased person at the time of their ceremonial cleansing, when they are brought to the priest:

(Leviticus 14:3) The priest is to go outside the camp and examine them. If they have been healed of their defiling skin disease,

(Leviticus 14:4) the priest shall order that two live clean birds and some cedar wood, scarlet yarn and hyssop be brought for the person to be cleansed.

(Leviticus 14:5) Then the priest shall order that one of the birds be killed over fresh water in a clay pot.

(Leviticus 14:6) He is then to take the live bird and drain it, together with the cedar wood, the scarlet yarn and the hyssop, into the blood of the bird that was killed over the fresh water.

(Leviticus 14:7) Seven times he shall sprinkle the one to be cleansed of the defiling disease, and then pronounce them clean. After that, he is to release the live bird in the open fields."

According to Leviticus 14, a person recovered from leprosy brings two clean birds to the priest.

The priest shall have one of them killed over fresh water in a clay pot, mixes the blood with fresh water, and sprinkles it on the person being cleansed using cedar wood, scarlet yarn, and hyssop.

The other bird is released alive, symbolizing that the affliction which tormented the person and the community has been carried away.

In the miserable state of the leper who came before Jesus pleading to be made clean, we see the image of humanity distorted by sin.

Just as Jesus healed and liberated the "unclean" leper when he came forward in faith, He will also liberate and save us from sin when we come before Him in faith to be set free.

The only way to be liberated from sin and receive salvation is to come before Jesus in faith.

Jesus said to the healed man, "See that you don't tell anyone."

This was because He was concerned that people might perceive Him merely as a miracle worker or a political liberator, which would lead to a serious misunderstanding of His ministry.

He also wished to avoid gaining unwanted popularity among the crowds.

The Healing of a Centurion's Servant

When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading for the healing of his paralyzed servant.

Although he was a Roman and a Gentile—not a Jew—he believed in Jesus’ authority to heal.

Seeing his faith, Jesus said He would personally go and heal him.

However, drawing from his professional experience, the centurion expressed his conviction that Jesus did not need to come to his house; he believed that if Jesus only spoke the word, his servant would be healed.

Jesus praised the centurion’s faith and said, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.”

At that very moment, his servant was healed.

⁸ The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

When Jesus saw the centurion’s faith, He said that many would come from the east and the west and take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, but the subjects of the kingdom would be thrown outside, where there will be weeping.

“Many from the east and the west” refers to the eschatological new people of God whom He gathers.

Jesus' statement that Gentiles would sit in the kingdom of heaven with the Jewish patriarchs must have been a great shock to the Jews.

They naturally believed that they alone would occupy that place.

On the occasion of the centurion's faith, Jesus explains the history of redemption. Faith enables Gentiles to participate in the heavenly banquet and breaks down the barrier between Jews and Gentiles.

Not everyone who is physically descended from Abraham enters the kingdom of God.

Rather, only those who, like the centurion, believe in the authority of Jesus will enter the kingdom and share in the feast with the patriarchs of Israel.

The Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law

¹⁴ When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.

¹⁵ He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

It is highly probable that the fever Peter's mother-in-law suffered from was malaria.

Although Capernaum, located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, was a prosperous area with thriving fishing, trade, and abundant grain, malaria was a common occurrence there.

At that time, malaria was a disease that was difficult to cure with the available medical knowledge.

However, as soon as Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her.

After being healed, Peter's mother-in-law began to serve Jesus.

The Church is a community that serves Jesus out of gratitude for the healing He has bestowed; likewise, church offices and positions are given for the purpose of ministering to Him.

Jesus Heals Many Who Were Demon-Possessed and Sick

When Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, people brought many who were demon-possessed and sick to Him.

Jesus healed them all with His "Word."

¹⁶ When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

Matthew interprets Jesus' healing ministry as the fulfillment of the mission assigned to the Suffering Servant prophesied in Isaiah 53:4-5.

¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases."

By casting out demons and healing the sick, Jesus proved that He is indeed the very Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament.

Beloved members of the Church of Godly Dreams,

When Jesus came to this earth and healed the sick, the demon-possessed, and the weak, it was not merely to relieve individual suffering.

Rather, it was to proclaim the fact that He is the Messiah who came to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Jesus is the Son of the Almighty God—He is God Himself—who is able to heal all the infirmities and deficiencies of our lives.

Jesus alone can liberate humanity from suffering and lack, and grant us salvation.

Do you believe this truth?

Only those who believe in this authority of Jesus Christ can enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Kingdom of Heaven is not reached through physical lineage, but through faith.

Let us all believe in Jesus and enter the Kingdom of Heaven!