

## Matthew 8

### ASVh with Comments

**Summary.** In Chapter 7, we see that the Lord Jesus teaches with authority. Here, in Chapter 8, we see that the Lord Jesus has authority and power over all sickness, spirits, the Word, and the winds and the sea. 1) The Lord Jesus is the hope for all the hopeless people: rich and poor, men and women, young and old. He heals a leper, a slave, Peter's mother-in-law, people oppressed by demons, and all who were sick and came to Him for mercy. All these healings are performed to show that the Lord Jesus took our illnesses with His Word and bore our diseases by the nail wounds on the cross. 2) The Lord Jesus answers a scribe and a disciple about what it means to follow Him. Both have different concerns that relate to their personal interests. The scribe is looking for material gain and power, while the disciple is looking for a secure future when following the Lord Jesus and is not concerned with money. 3) The Father creates a situation on the sea for the disciples in order to guide their hearts and show who the Lord Jesus is. They need this experience to build up their faith for facing future life trials and troubles.

**8<sup>1</sup>** Now when **He had** come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed **Him**.

**Comments 8:1.** "Now when He ... mountain." This event took place after teaching crowds of people on the mountain (See Chapters 5, 6, and 7).

**2** And behold, a leper having come, worshipped **Him** saying, **Lord**, if **Thou** will, **Thou can** make me clean.

**Comments 8:2.** The Lord chose this leper first to comfort him because his heart was searching for the Lord. He was a poor man with a body that was dirtied by leprosy but with a humble and clean heart.

**3** And **having stretched out the hand**, **He** touched him, saying, **I will**; be **you** made clean! And **straightaway** his leprosy was cleansed.

**4** And **Jesus says to** him, See, **you** tell no **people**; but go, show **yourself** to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony **to** them.

**Comments 8:3-4.** "See, you tell no people ..." This was a public healing, so it is evident that the Lord told the leper something personal when He healed him, and His command refers to this fact. He was not supposed to tell anyone about what the Lord told him privately.

**5** Now, **He** having entered into Capernaum, a centurion came **to Him**, **begging Him**,

**6** and saying, **Lord**, my **slave is lying** in the house sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

**Comments 8:5-6.** If you have faith, you can ask the Lord for someone under your authority to receive mercy. The centurion asked mercy for his own servant, which belonged to him.

**7** And **He says to** him, **I will** come and heal him.

**8** **However answering**, the centurion said, **Lord**, I am not worthy that **Thou should** come under my roof; but only say the word, and my **slave will** be healed.

**Comments 8:8.** The centurion shows himself as humble and having simple and honest faith. Do not think that you deserve something; just come with simple faith. You enter the throne of the Father when you come with a humble heart.

**9** For I also am a man under authority, having under myself soldiers, **I appoint**; and I say to this, Go, and he **goes**; and to another, Come, and he **comes**; and to my servant, Do this, and he **does** it.

**10** And **having heard**, **Jesus marveled**, and said to **those following**, Truly **I say to you**, **Not even** in Israel I have found so great faith.

**Comments 8:10.** Come to the Lord with simple faith, asking for mercy, not demanding mercy. The Father has mercy on humans, and He sent the Lord Jesus not because the humans were demanding it but because the Father has love and mercy. The Lord Jesus' obedience to the Father is greater than His own suffering; He lowered Himself to become a human. That is why the Father loves the Lord Jesus and does according to the Lord Jesus' will. The Father does it when the Lord Jesus asks in someone's name.

**11** And **I say to you**, that many **will** come from the east and the west, and **will recline** with Abraham,

and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of **the** heavens;

<sup>12</sup> but the sons of the kingdom **will** be cast **out** into the outer darkness; there **will** be the weeping and the gnashing of the teeth.

<sup>13</sup> And **Jesus** said **to** the centurion, Go **your** way; as **you have** believed, **let** it be done **to you**. And the servant was healed in that hour.

<sup>14</sup> And when **Jesus** **has** come to Peter's house, **He** saw his **mother-in-law** lying sick of a fever.

<sup>15</sup> And **He** touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she arose, and ministered to them.

**Comments 8:15.** In Peter's mother-in-law's case, the Lord had compassion for Peter because Peter would not be at home to care for her. The mother-in-law was the one who was taking care of the house. The Lord Jesus healed her, and she rose and began to serve them.

<sup>16</sup> And when **evening** came, they brought **to Him** many **being** possessed with demons, and **He** cast out the spirits **by** a word, and healed all **those being** sick,

<sup>17</sup> **so** that it might be fulfilled **that having been** spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying: **Himself He** took our **weaknesses**, and **bore** our **sicknesses**.

**Comments 8:17.** The Lord Jesus took our illnesses with His Word, and He carried them at the cross on the wounds of the nails. He carried all the sins of the world, past, present, and future, in those nails' piercings. That is why the Father loves His Son and does all things according to His wishes. When watching His Son having that pain because of His love for humans, the pain of the Lord Jesus won the love of the Father. Therefore, when His Son asks forgiveness for someone, the Father gives it; the Lord Jesus already received punishment for that person. The Father watching that moment when it happened with His Son made the Father feel the hurt the Lord Jesus received. That is why the Father's love for the Lord Jesus is multiplied.

<sup>18</sup> Now when **Jesus** saw a great multitude **around Him**, **He** **commanded** to depart **to** the other side.

<sup>19</sup> **One** scribe came and said to **Him, Teacher**, I will follow **Thee** wherever **Thou** might go.

**Comments 8:19.** The Lord Jesus' true home is not on earth but in the heavens. Following the Lord Jesus means to build treasures in heaven, not on earth. Our reasons to follow the Lord Jesus must be set right in our hearts (See also Luke 9:58).

<sup>20</sup> And **Jesus** says **to** him, The foxes have **dens**, and the birds of the heaven nests; but the **Son** of **Man** **has** not where to lay **His** head.

<sup>21</sup> And another of the disciples said **to Him, Lord**, **permit** me first to go and bury my father.

<sup>22</sup> But **Jesus** says **to** him, Follow **Me**, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.

**Comments 8:22.** The living ones are with the Lord Jesus; He is the giver of life. We must follow Him, and we pass from death unto life; we are not among the dead anymore. Note that here, the Lord answers a disciple's question, and in Verse 20, He answers a scribe's question. Look into the goals of their questions to understand the Lord's answer.

<sup>23</sup> And **He** **having** entered into **the** boat, **His** disciples followed **Him**.

<sup>24</sup> And behold, a great **storm** **happened** in the sea, **so** that the boat was covered **by** the waves; but **He** was **sleeping**.

<sup>25</sup> And **having** come, **they** awoke **Him**, saying, **Lord**, save us, we are **perishing!**

<sup>26</sup> And **He** says **to** them, Why are **you** fearful, O **you** of little faith? Then **having arisen**, **He** rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

<sup>27</sup> And the men **marveled**, saying, Of what manner is this, that even the winds and the sea obey **Him?**

**Comments 8:27.** The Father created the situation with the sea storm to build up the faith of the disciples to follow the Lord Jesus. The Father wanted them to see that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God, and they should listen and obey Him. Building up their faith was important since the Lord Jesus' disciples would face many things in the future, and they would need a strong faith to go on. To follow the Lord Jesus was not easy for them. Their life no longer belongs to themselves; they belong to the Lord Jesus.

<sup>28</sup> And when **He** **had** come to the other side, **to** the **region** of the Gadarenes, met **Him** two possessed

by demons, coming out of the tombs, **extremely violent**, so that no **one** could pass by that way.

**Comments 8:28.** The healing described in the Gospel of Matthew and the healing described in the Gospel of Mark Chapter 5 happened in the same region but in different areas in the region that were not close to each other. Gadarenes refers to the region's name, and Gerasenes in the Gospel of Mark refers to a village name. The region had two areas where similar things happened. One with two men described here and the other with one man described in Mark. The name of the Lord Jesus spread far and wide because of these healings. The Lord encountered many more of these kinds of people, which He healed. Not all the cases encountered by the Lord Jesus are present in our times because the Lord Jesus was on earth, and then He asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit to occupy the earth (See the Book of Acts). The presence of the Holy Spirit controls the dark side's activity.

<sup>29</sup> And behold, they cried out, saying, What **to us and to Thee, Son of God? Have Thou** come **here** to **torture** us before the time?

<sup>30</sup> Now there was far off from them a herd of many swine feeding.

<sup>31</sup> And the demons **begged Him**, saying, If **Thou** cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine.

<sup>32</sup> And **He** said **to** them, Go. And **having come** out, **they** went **away** into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep **bank** into the sea, and perished in the waters.

<sup>33</sup> **Now those** that fed them fled, and **having gone** away into the city, **they announced** everything, **also about the demoniacs**.

<sup>34</sup> And behold, all the **city went** out to meet **Jesus**; and **having seen Him**, they **begged Him** that **He** **might** depart from their borders.

**Comments 8:34.** The pig was like a god for these people since pigs gave them everything. Their riches and more came from their pigs. The death of their pigs made them angry at the Lord Jesus, so they didn't want Him around.

**Life and Faith Applications.** 1) The Lord Jesus is the Lord of all. He has authority and power over the Word, our lives, our illnesses, the spiritual world, and nature. 2) Poor, rich, men, women, young and old, we can all come in faith to the Lord Jesus for our needs. But first, we need to acknowledge that He is the Son of God and believe in His love and mercy in order to receive anything.