
IGNATIUS
Catholic Study Bible

The Gospel of
MATTHEW

IB



Commentary, Notes, & Study Questions

Revised Standard Version
Second Catholic Edition

Sunday Bible
College

Chapter 8

The Sermon
on the Mount

Holy Trinity
Anglican Church
Fernandina Beach, Florida

Overview

Chapters 8-9

- Chapter 7 ends with these words, **"When Jesus finished these sayings, they crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes."**
- Chapter 8 begins, **"When Jesus came down from the mountain..."** Read 7:24. It is now time for Jesus to set the example of doing what has been taught and heard.
- Chapters 8 and nine collect the stories of 10 miracles which Jesus performed. From the ICSB p. 30, "They portray Jesus bringing into the world a divine holiness that overpowers the causes of defilement: sin, disease, demons and even death."

Jesus Cleanses a Leper

8:1-4

Question 8.1: How is mortal sin like leprosy?

What is mortal sin? According to the ancient teaching of the church, there are two kinds of sin, venial sin is an offense against God which is serious but does not result in spiritual death. Mortal sin is so serious that it cuts the offender off from grace and therefore life in Christ.

1. Mortal sin cuts the offender off from the grace of God
2. Mortal sin is contagious, influencing others to sin and lose access to grace
3. Priests are instrumental in reconciling those who commit mortal sin with God, and restoring sinners to grace.

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

8:5-13

- The centurion was a gentile and therefore "unworthy" to receive the ministry of a Prophet of God.
- 8:7 form the basis for the words of our Liturgy. Why? Jesus himself marveled at these words.
- Note: Jesus shocked everyone by healing the Leper through touch. Jesus shocked everyone by healing the servant of a gentile, his touch was not necessary, but compassionate and instructive.

Jesus Heals Peter's Household

8:14-17

- Peter's mother in law, suffering an apparently communicable disease (the fever is the sign of contagion), Jesus touches her to heal her.
- Those present found this action to be the fulfillment of Isaiah 53:4 "HE TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND BORE OUR DISEASES."

Would-Be Followers

8:18-22

- Note that these followers of Jesus are not willing to do what the Disciples did leaving everything - careers, businesses, livelihoods, and family obligations in order to be his disciple.
- For Jesus, following him requires the greatest commitment. The high demands of the Gospel outrank all other demands and obligations.

Jesus Calms the Storm

8:23-27

- Jesus has shown that he is master over disease, life and death.
- He has shown that following him is a greater calling than any other.
- Now he shows that "even the wind and the seas obey." Every aspect of the material creation is subject to his will.
- He is not merely the savior of mankind, he is the Savior of the world, of all creation (κοσμος - cosmos)

Jesus heals the Gadarene Demoniacs

8:28-34

- Gadara was one of the 10 cities of the Roman province called the Decapolis. It was a gentile city, unclean and defiled by its very nature as witnessed by herding of swine. The people and the land being unclean, no worship could happen hear.
- Two demoniacs come out of the tombs - corruption is unclean. Death is the consequence of man's obedience to the demon who has no life to offer.
- Excursus: Why do the demons want to inhabit a living creature, man or swine?

Jesus heals the Gadarene Demoniacs, 2

8:28-34

- Why did the swine run into the water? (Did Jesus drive them there? Who did?)
- Why might this have happened? For demons, every experience of goodness is a pain of hell. Demons, tormented by their own eternal condemnation, can not tolerate the bright light of God's perfection. The order of God's cosmos is too much for them. Because of their condition, they are proponents of chaos, disorder, corruption, decay, terror, darkness and death. Craving a return to their once glorious existence, they seek to inhabit beautifully alive beings, but the presence of the demon corrupts the living, sending them to dwell in tombs.

Jesus heals the Gadarene Demoniacs, 3

8:28-34

- The Responses to Jesus: Compare these verses
8:27 And the men marveled saying, "What sort of man is this that even the wind and sea obey him?"
8:34 The city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him they begged him to leave their neighborhood.
9:8 When the crowds saw it, they were afraid and glorified God
9:34 But the pharisees said, He casts out demons by the prince of demons.

Overview thus far

- Sin, disease, demons, and death - the Jews, and especially the Pharisees, considered those defiled by such things to be unclean and untouchable: Jesus, however takes an offensive stance against all evil and by his mighty words and his physical touch heals the effects of sin. He was not only immune to uncleanness, but the superior power of his holiness went forth to purify others... ICSB p. 30 note for 8:1-9:38

Homework: Ch. 9

- Re-read the Gospel According to Saint Matthew chapters 8:28-9:35 pp. 31-33, including the notes.
- Answer the questions labeled "For understanding" for chapter 9 on pages 77 in your booklet.

