

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Faith & Authority

Matthew 8:1-17

Matthew 8:1, When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.

Matthew 5:1, Seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

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Two environments:

- 1) Devoted followers, separated to Him
- 2) Great multitudes, swarming around Him

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8:2, And behold, **a leper came** and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

.....

And behold, **a leper came** and worshiped Him

- **His absolute need compelled him** to come to Jesus
- He did not let **having no offering** keep him from coming
- His absolute need was **his life & death offering**
- He could have been stoned on the spot
- Or died slowly alone. He knew he was already dead.

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Do we realize **our life & death need** compels us to come to Him?

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A leper came **and worshiped Him**

- Worshipping Him for **who He is...**
- Before he made his request

.....

Do we worship Him for **who He is...**

- Because He is worthy?
- **Before** we make our request.
- Regardless of whether He grants it or not

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Saying, "**Lord**, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

- He declared Jesus to be his absolute, **Supreme Master!**

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7:21, "Not everyone who says to Me, '**Lord, Lord,**' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." (**Matt. 12:50**)

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5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**"

- **The first thing Jesus said** in His first ever public teaching
- It's not **what** we say, but **why we say it**

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"**If You are willing**, You can make me clean."

- He made his request completely **subject to Christ's authority**
- Subject to His decision, **whatever He chose**
- Just as Christ, Himself would do with His life

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Mathew 26:38-39, He said, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, **even to death**. He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, **if it is possible**, let this cup pass from Me; **nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**"

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Just as the apostle Paul would come to accept when his request was not granted

II Corinthians 12:8-9, Concerning this thing I **pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me**. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

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"If You are willing, You can **make me clean**."

- You can change **who & what I am**
- Something no one else can do...
- And we cannot do for ourselves
- This is about **more than healing disease!**

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John 8:32 & 36, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall **make you free**."

"Therefore **if the Son makes you free**, you shall be free indeed."

He doesn't just change our circumstance, or our body

- **He changes who & what we are!**

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"If You are willing, You can make me **clean**."

- Make me **undefiled & clean in Your presence!**
- I hope you've had someone who knew you before ask you...
- **What happened to you?!**

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8:3, Then **Jesus put out His hand and touched him**, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

When He touched what was unclean it **made Him unclean!**

- Touching him, He demonstrates His acceptance & care for the man
- He also identifies with him & his circumstances
- Just as He did by being baptized.

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Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "**I am willing**"

- I choose to do this
- **Why?**

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John 5:19, Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself**, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."

- I don't make My own choices
- My choice is to do what the Father reveals

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"I am willing; **be cleansed**."

- With two words, Jesus changed **EVERYTHING!**

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The **ONE** who said, "**Let there be light**"

- Said, "**Be cleansed**," and he was

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He made everything about this man **NEW!**

- He gave him **perfect health**, In exchange for **deadly disease!**
- **Why?**
- Because His Father told Him to

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Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

- Christ's declarations happen **when He says them!**
(This will be repeated with the next person)
- Because, "**The Son can do nothing of Himself**"

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When someone declares or commands things that don't happen...

- It simply reveals it was **of themselves**, not God.
- God never commands what doesn't happen
- Paul (David) Yonggi Cho, 1987

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8:4, And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

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"**See that you tell no one**"

- Don't make a spectacle of this
- He had other purposes in mind

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II Corinthians 12:2-4, I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.

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*“But **go your way**, show yourself to the priest”*

- *Continue on in your normal course of life (He will repeat this also)*

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*“**Show yourself to the priest**”*

- *Honor God within His established worship expressions*
- *Telling everyone instead would not honor God’s established ways*
- *He hadn’t determined to replace them yet*

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*“Offer the gift that Moses commanded, **as a testimony to them.**”*

- *Though it didn’t come through them...*
- *You are worshipping & honoring Me without excluding them (They would exclude Christ, instead)*

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***Matthew 9:16**, “No one puts a piece of **unshrunk** cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse.”*

- *God’s fresh, new ways are supposed to be seasoned to be adapted to what is*
- *To enhance them, not replace them*
- *It’s human self-centeredness that separates God’s people*

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***Matthew 13:52**, Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed **concerning the kingdom of heaven** is like a householder who brings out of his treasure **things new and old.**”*

- *How many professing to be wise, **display their ignorance** of God’s ways?*
- ***Learn from Jesus...** to avoid the errors of man*