

# ST. MATTHEW

The Gospel according to

## OPENING WORSHIP

To begin your Bible study, read together **Isaiah 53:1-4**. While this chapter predicts Jesus' suffering and death, Matthew tells us that this Old Testament prophecy also foretells Jesus' miracles.

## INTRODUCTION

Suppose someone came into your world with amazing powers. His healing powers could make the lame walk, open the ears of the deaf, and give sight to the blind. He could release people from demonic possession. Those who heard him teach went away with their spirits filled—as well as their stomachs, for he easily provided food for thousands. He even had power over death, as corpses on their way to the grave were raised again to life.

What would be your assessment of such a man? What conclusions would you draw?

## THE MIRACLES OF THE MASTER

**Read Matthew 8:1-17**

The term "miracle" is thrown around rather loosely today to describe various phenomena. We should use the term carefully, lest we diminish its real significance. What is a miracle?

What was Jesus' purpose in doing miracles?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did both the leper and Jesus break protocol in their interaction with each other? (v. 2, 3)

In response to many miracles Jesus told the beneficiary not to tell others what had happened (v. 4). Why didn't Jesus want news of his miracles to spread?

- 1.
- 2.

How did the centurion's comment (v. 9) demonstrate his great faith? How is this reflected in Jesus' response (v. 13)?

What interesting insight do we gain about Peter in verse 14?

**Read Matthew 8:18-22**

In light of Jesus' invitations to others to follow him, what do these verses tell us about the call to discipleship?

**Read Matthew 8:23-9:8**

What does Jesus' calming the storm tell us about who he is and the power he commands?

What is demon possession?

What do verses 30-31 tell us about the people of the region of the Gadarenes?

Why did the people plead with Jesus to leave? (v. 34)

What does Jesus' remark to the paralytic reveal about his authority? (v. 2) Why was this especially offensive to the teachers of the law?

How did the final result (v. 7) illustrate the breadth of Jesus' power?

**Read Matthew 9:18-34**

Matthew's account of the daughter of Jairus is quite short and to the point. What does this miracle illustrate about Jesus' power?

Why does Jesus ask the blind men if they believe he can heal them? (v. 28)

Why did the Pharisees say, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons"? (v. 34)

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**VERSE TO REMEMBER**

**Matthew 8:17b**            *"He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."*

**For next time read Matthew chapters 10-12.**