

## MATTHEW 7:23-9:38

Matthew 7:23-27 - And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matt. 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: Matt. 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. Matt. 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: Matt. 7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

1. [and doeth them] (verse 21) - Remember that this is in the context of Israel-Kingdom, where it is faith **plus** required things (circumcision-baptism-law, etc) as evidence of one's **faith**.
2. This agrees with James (half-brother of the Lord) in his Jewish book for the Little Flock to **prepare** them for Tribulation, then into the kingdom.

James 2:17-20, 24 - Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? James 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

3. The context in these verses is the Little Flock, the remnant, and the 12 - true Jewish believers. The true Israel are the wise builders who build upon a rock (Christ-kingdom truths). They hear and **do** God's commands. When the storm-wrath comes, they will **endure**.
4. But the Christ rejecters are foolish builders who build upon the sand (false religion, untruth, apostasy). When the floods of God's **wrath** (tribulation) hit, they will crumble and are **never** allowed to enter into the kingdom.

**\*\*Christ is saying that He (the Rock) is the right foundation and if they don't build upon Him...they will **fall**!**

Matthew 16:16-19 - And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Matt. 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. Matt. 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matt. 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 7:28-29 - And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: Matt. 7:29 For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

1. When Jesus stopped speaking, the large crowd was spellbound - left in a state of **amazement**.
2. Jesus did not teach like the scribes (copiers of the law - clerks) or theologians, who relied on traditions for **their** authority.

3. Jesus spoke **clearly** and plainly of what He personally knew and not the opinions of Jewish traditions. He spoke of life, death, and eternity. His message came from the very heart of **God**.

John 1:1, 14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

I John 5:7 - For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Matthew 8:1 - When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

1. We will begin to see Christ doing a number of miracles in Chapters 8-10, to give evidence to prove a point. (They are not in chronological order.)

\*\*Christ will give proof that He **is** the prophesied-promised Messiah. He is proclaimed to be Messiah and He has shared His manifesto of kingdom living. Now He comes down from the mountain to **demonstrate** His divine powers, by performing miracles and signs.

2. Matthew will give a list of miracles that will **prove** Jesus is the prophesied Christ-Messiah to Israel. The first four miracles will show four views of Christ, Israel, and sin in the "Time Past" dispensational way.

Matthew 8:2-4 - And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. Matt. 8:3 And Jesus put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Matt. 8:4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

1. A leper is a fitting type of Israel in sin.

Isaiah 1:5-6 - Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. Isa. 1:6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head *there is* no soundness in it; *but* wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

\*The whole body of the nation was corrupt and Israel had not made **any** attempt to heal themselves by getting right with God. The great need for Israel was to do what this leper did - go to Christ for spiritual **healing**.

2. The [leper] - Leprosy was considered to be an **incurable** disease and any healing of it was the working power of God. The loathsomeness of this disease, with its hopelessness, was **awful**.

\*It separated these victims from society, just as sin separates man from God.

Note: Leviticus 13:45 - [And the leper in whom the plague *is*, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean.]

- a. His confidence - vs. 2 [And, behold, there came a leper]. Lepers would not approach other people for fear of spreading the disease, or fear of the people **stoning** them. Evidently this leper was so desperate, because of his need, that he lost all sense of shame and his social stigma.

- b. His reverence - vs. 2b- [and worshipped him, saying, Lord,]. Even though his appearance was terrible, his heart recognized the presence of God because he fell prostrate (bowed down) to the Lord (worshipped). Evidently he had heard of Jesus' healings in the area and that Christ was more than a man.

**\*\*Amazingly**, before he sought anything for himself, he exalted the Lord!

- c. His humility - vs. 2c - [if thou wilt,] - This leper did not demand anything. He did not speak his will as if Christ had to comply (today's word of faith movement). He asked if the Lord would, then he was willing to accept the Lord's decision.
- d. His faith - vs. 2d - [thou canst make me clean.] - The leper was convinced that Christ had the power to heal him. He knew (perhaps by seeing or hearing of Jesus' miracles) that Jesus was able and he submits to Christ's sovereignty. It is a man of great faith who says, "I know you can, I just don't know if you will".

3. The Lord - vs. 3-4

- a. Notice how simple - vs. 3a - [And Jesus put forth *his* hand, and touched him,] As Jesus puts his hand forth, no doubt the crowd gasped seeing Him touching a leper!

\*Jesus actually did not need to even touch this leper. He could have just said, "Be clean!", and it would happen. But He just simply touched him.

- b. It's suddenness - vs. 3b - [saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.]

\*There was no delay or no "It will get better each day" (TV). As soon as He touched the disease (He wasn't contaminated), it was cleansed by His power. That is true healing!

4. The Command - vs. 4 - [See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.]

- a. Even though the priesthood of Israel was corrupt and would finally condemn Jesus to death, He recognized He was under Law. He was always obedient to it and instructed His disciples to do whatever the Law leaders commanded them to do.

Matthew 23:1-3 - Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Matt. 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: Matt. 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

- b. Remember, it would have been the priests who had pronounced him to be a leper. Also, the priests knew that only God had power to cure leprosy. This would make them have to admit that Jesus was God, or at least doing the works of God.

**\*\*The same happens when God saves a sinner. He doesn't merely patch up the old man, with all his deformities and scars - He creates a new man.**

Colossians 3:9-10 - Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; Col. 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Matthew 8:5-13 - Jesus heals the Centurion's **servant**.

\*This was an indictment against the nation of Israel. This was one of two exceptions (Gentiles) where Christ healed a Gentile from a distance. Israel refused to be healed of her sins while Messiah was in her **midst**.

\*Luke said the centurion had been gracious to the **Jews**. Luke 7:2, 4-5 - [And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. Luke 7:4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: Luke 7:5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.]

Matthew 8:14-15 - Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law. Yes, Peter was **married**!

Matthew 8:16-17 - Jesus heals the demon-possessed.

\*He would just speak the Word and spirits obeyed Him. In vs. 17, where it says that Jesus took their "**infirmities**" and bare their "**sicknesses**", it is not referring to the **cross**, but He did this in His **life** by healing them.

Matthew 8:18-22 - Jesus goes to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

\*He tells some of the disciples to follow Him, which meant to do it right then. It was **all** in, or not.

Matthew 8:23-27 - Jesus calms the stormy waves.

Matthew 8:28-34 - Jesus cast out devils from **two** fierce men, sending the spirits into the swine.

1. Interestingly, the demons have reverence for Jesus as being superior to them. They **knew** Who He was and that they were to be judged, just not yet!

James 2:19 - Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

2. The people request Him to leave, not to come to help-heal-hold a revival for them! But they wanted Jesus **gone**. The supernatural power of Jesus caused the town folk to panic and fear. They were **unholy** in the presence of the Holy One. Usually people don't turn to God after **seeing** the miraculous.

Matthew 9:1-2 - Jesus heals the man with paralysis and sin.

Matthew 9:3-8 - Jesus shows the religious leaders His power, identity, and deity.

\*Only God Himself could forgive sins, and Jesus **did** this!

Matthew 9:9-13 - Jesus came for sinners, publicans, and all who need a physician.

\*We begin to see a **decline** in His popularity and an **increase** in opposition to Him.

Matthew 9:14-33 -

1. Jesus teaches about fasting (14-17), heals a woman with an issue of blood (18-22), raises a young dead girl (23-26), heals two blind men (27-31), then heals a deaf demon-possessed man (32-33).

2. In verses 16-17, we read the phrases: "new cloth into old garment", "new wine into old bottles", and "new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved".

\*Meaning: Christ is not forming His **new** kingdom program out of the **old** apostate religious system led by the old religious leaders of Israel. But, He is forming a **new** nation with **new people** (Little Flock-Remnant) - with a **new** program with a **new** message (the kingdom) - with a **new** end...a heavenly kingdom on earth - a **New** Covenant!

Matthew 9:34 - The religious leaders falsely accuse Jesus of being associated with **Satan**, when actually they were!

Matthew 9:35-38 - Jesus heals and teaches the gospel of the kingdom.

1. \*His heart breaks as He sees so many hurting and purposeless. There are so many and the great need was for there to be more messengers of **truth** - not Israel's leaders.  
  
\*\*He is **preparing** followers to get ready to go to Israel to spread the gospel of the kingdom.
2. Note: From this point forward, our Lord's ministry will take on characteristics of a **crash** program. His miracles **increase** and He will **begin** to allude to His death. He will slowly reveal this to His disciples, lest He should shock them. He will personally organize and commission them. These outcasts (disciples) will become His labourers (vs. 38).
3. After all the miracles in Chapters 8 & 9, His disciples should be **fired up**, **full of faith** and **ready** to share the kingdom gospel.