

Discussion Questions
Matthew Chapters 8-9

1. **Read Mat 7:28-29.** Why did the crowds follow Jesus after he finished teaching? What is the dictionary definition of Authority?

2. **Cleansing of the Leper.** What does Leprosy represent? (see Isaiah 1:5-6).
 - a. Name as many character traits as you can exhibited by the Leprous man in his encounter with Jesus.
 - b. What actions did Jesus take in response to the man's request? From your own knowledge about Leprosy, why are Jesus' actions surprising?
 - a. What is the Spiritual reality Jesus is teaching through this encounter?

3. **From Matt 8:5-13,** list the unique and surprising behaviors the Centurion exhibited in his interaction with Jesus. What does Jesus commend him for?

4. What does Jesus teach about the kingdom of heaven in Mat 8:10-12? Look up the following verses to help You with your answer.
 - a. Isaiah 2:2-3
 - b. Isaiah 60:3-4
 - c. Micah 4:1-2
 - d. How do you think the Jewish listeners responded to Jesus' bold statement?
 - e. What does Jesus say about those who reject Jesus' authority as Messiah and Savior?

5. **Read Mat 8:18-22** Why does Jesus rebuke the person who said he would follow Jesus everywhere?
 - a. Why does he rebuke the person who wanted to bury his father before following Jesus?
 - b. What does Jesus mean when he said, "Let the dead bury the dead"? See John 5:24ff

6. **In Mat 7:23-27** What was the Disciples' response to Jesus calming the storm?
 - a. Contrast the faith of the centurion in 8:10 and that of the disciples in 8:26. Why should this not have been the case?
 - b. (Personal) Which of these two examples best describes your response to Jesus?

7. **In Mat 8:28-32**, what do we discover that Demons know about Jesus?
 - a. How does this inform your thinking about Faith in Jesus?
 - b. What was the people's response to Jesus casting the demons into the pigs and why did the people respond that way?
8. **Read Matthew 9:1-17; Mark 2:1-22; Luke 5:17-39.** Remembering the strict monotheistic faith of all pious Jews, which verse in Mat 9:1-17 points to the unique deity of Jesus Christ and to His authority which belongs only to God?
9. **Read Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:21-43, Luke 8:40-56.** Who was Jairus? Why would it have been difficult for him to come to seek Jesus' help. What situation caused him to overcome the reluctance he naturally would have felt?
 - a. Who was the woman who touched Jesus' garments? What was her condition? Compare these two people who met at the feet of Jesus.
 - b. What is the significance of these two stories?
10. From the study of these chapters, describe how Jesus treats those who are clearly perceived as sinners. See Mat 9:12-13.
11. Count how many times the words "faith" or "believe" appear in these two chapters. What is the importance of this observation?
12. Chapters 8 and 9 point us to the character of the Kingdom of Heaven. From what you have studied this week give a description of the characteristics of the Kingdom Jesus is ushering in.