

St Annes Ryde  
ANGELICAN CHURCH



**CGS 13 Term 2  
2008**

# **Jesus the Messiah**

## **Matthew 8 - 10**



**Bible based Discussion Material**

**prepared by Greg Burke and linked to sermons  
preached at St Anne's Ryde Anglican Church**

Meeting - week following Weekend@home -

Your connect group could discuss Glenn Davies' teaching from the weekend.

**Discussion 1. A commanding figure Matthew 8:1-13  
(Sermon 11th May)**

1. What do these two accounts of healing reveal about the sovereignty of God?
2. How would you respond to someone who says that to pray for healing '**God, if you are willing**' (ie "please heal me - according to your will") shows a lack of faith? How does your answer fit with the Lord's Prayer and Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane?
3. Which of the following is a necessary precondition that **must** be present if we are to be healed from illness:
  - # our faith in God
  - # our willingness to ask God for healing
  - # God's ability to heal
  - # God's willingness to heal
4. Imagine you have a friend who has just been diagnosed as having a life-threatening illness. There is a slight chance of recovery if no treatment is undergone, but an operation with a 50% failure rate (death) could restore him to complete health.
  - ▶ What advice would you give him about prayer for healing and the wisdom of undergoing the operation.
  - ▶ What factors should your friend take into account when making his decision?
  - ▶ If he decided not to have the operation and to pray for healing - what conclusion would you draw if he died? Or if he recovered?
  - ▶ If he decided to have the operation - what difference would this make to your prayers? What is a Godly response if the operation was a success?

**Discussion 2. Popularity has its cost Matthew 8:14-22  
(Sermon 18th May)**

1. Why do you think Jesus just touches the sick woman and does not speak to heal her?
2. Matthew quotes Isaiah 53:4 and claims this verse is fulfilled in Jesus' ministry (Matthew 8:17). Read Isaiah 53 and discuss what the terms "infirmities" and "diseases" refer to in the context of the whole of chapter 53.
3. You have a friend who is not yet a Christian and she asks you if she should pray for healing of a serious chronic illness.
  - ▶ How would you advise her?
  - ▶ How would you respond if she asked you to pray for her?
4. You are negotiating with the speaker for an evangelistic event that you are arranging. How would you ask her to include teaching on the cost of following Jesus in her talk?
  - ▶ How much should it be emphasised?
  - ▶ At what point should it be mentioned - before or after a call to Christian commitment?
  - ▶ What are the possible consequences that could flow from omitting it?

**Discussion 3. Who is this man? Matthew 8:23-34  
(Sermon 25th May)**

***Read verses 23-27***

1. Is Jesus a bit harsh when he says his disciples lack faith when they are afraid of the storm? Why/why not?
2. How does Jesus control the wind and waves?
3. How would you answer the disciples' question in verse 27?

***Read verses 28-34***

4. "Demon possession is a thing of the past caused by misunderstanding and primitive ignorance of psychiatric illness" - discuss.
5. What evidence is there here of the destructive nature of possession?
6. What does the demon's attitude to Jesus reveal about Jesus and his authority? What do you know of the story of Job that is consistent with this? (See Job 1 and 2)

**Discussion 4. Authority to forgive sin Matthew 9:1- 8  
(Sermon 1st June)**

1. Would you rather remain paralysed but forgiven or restored to full health and unforgiven? Discuss your reasons.
2. Jesus refuses to work with the “either/or” categories of the previous question. What does his linking of forgiveness and healing show about his understanding of the world and his own authority?
3. Why do you think Jesus charges the teachers of the law with “thinking evil thoughts”? What does this show about the nature of opposition he faces from the religious establishment?
4. What exactly is sin? Is it possible for a “good” person to be a 'sinner'?
5. How would you respond to your neighbour who refuses to come with you to church because 'they are always going on about sin - church is depressing?’
6. What are the differences between Jesus forgiving sin and our forgiveness?

What do you think the Prayer Book means when it says

*“The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ pardons and absolves all who truly repent and believe his holy gospel. For God desires, not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live, and has **given authority and commandment to his ministers to declare to his people, when they repent, the forgiveness of their sins.** Therefore let us ask him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that what we do now may please him, and that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (AAPB)

**Discussion 5. It’s the company he keeps Matthew 9:9-17  
(Sermon 8th June)**

1. From the perspective of the Jewish teachers of the law - what is surprising about the people who benefit from Jesus' ministry in 8:1-4, 8:5-13, 8:28-34, 9:1-8, 9:9-17? What makes each of them 'beyond help' as far as the Pharisees are concerned?
2. What do you think might have happened **between** verse 9 and 10?

3. What does verse 10 reveal about Matthew's motives? What could we do if we shared his motives?

4. What do you think is 'new' about what Jesus is doing? How would you respond to someone who complains that 'church has changed so much since I was young. I think we should go back to the old ways'?  
What could be valid about this argument? Invalid?  
What principles would you apply to assess the validity of change?

### **Discussion 6. Faith healing Matthew 9:18-34 (Sermon 15th June)**

1. List the understandings that the following people have of Jesus:
  - ▶ The Ruler
  - ▶ The woman who is bleeding
  - ▶ The blind man
  - ▶ The crowd
  - ▶ The Pharisees

Who is the "odd man out"? Can you think of modern equivalents of each of these people?

2. How do you think the Pharisees arrive at their conclusion?

3. How does Jesus show that their conclusion is illogical (and evil) in Matthew 12:22-37.

4. How helpful is it to describe Jesus as a "faith healer"? Give reasons.

5. Of the people in this passage - who has the 'greatest faith'? How do you measure this? Do you think Jesus compares the amount of faith people exercise? Does he respond 'in proportion' to their faith?

### **Discussion 7. Kingdom news Matthew 9:35 - 10:7 (Sermon 22nd June)**

1. What does Jesus mean when he says 'the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few'? (v37)

2. What does he tell his disciples to do in response to this situation?

3. Do you think (v37) is true today? Why? / Why not?

4. Your group is organising a Youth Convention. One session is to be devoted to challenging those who attend to consider full time Christian ministry. What would you include in this session about the motives required, the needs for full time Christian workers etc ?

5. How would you respond to someone who feels guilty because they are not a 'professional' Christian worker when the needs are so great? How would you help them to see their part in meeting these needs without offering for full time ministry?

### **Discussion 8. Marching orders Matthew 10:5-15 (Sermon 29th June)**

1. What indications are there in this 'commissioning' (vv 5-15) that its content is just for this specific 'mission' of the disciples?

2. Your group is the executive council of a newly formed Christian missionary organisation.

Decide together on :

- ▶ 'a key verse' from Scripture for your 'motto'
- ▶ a 'mission statement' for your organisation
- ▶ the qualities required of missionaries you will send out
- ▶ how your organisation will raise funds to support its staff
- ▶ the principles you will use to decide the priorities of needs that you

will respond to

Compare your answers to those of CMS and Interserve as revealed on their web sites (Check their web sites via the links on St Anne's site.)

### **Matthew 8:1 - 10:15 (New International Version)**

When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." 3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy. 4 Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." 5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralysed and in terrible suffering." 7 Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." 8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. 11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the subjects of the kingdom

will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that very hour. 14 When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. 15 He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. 16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. 17 This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” 18 When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. 19 Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” 20 Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 21 Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” 22 But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.” 23 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. 24 Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” 26 He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. 27 The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!” 28 When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no-one could pass that way. 29 “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” 30 Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. 31 The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.” 32 He said to them, “Go!” So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. 33 Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region. **Chapter 9** 1 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. 2 Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” 3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!” 4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5 Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....” Then he said to the paralytic, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” 7 And the man got up and went home. 8 When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men. 9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and “sinners” came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” 14 Then John’s disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” 15 Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn

while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. 16 “No-one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17 Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.” 18 While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” 19 Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. 20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21 She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.” 22 Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed from that moment. 23 When Jesus entered the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, 24 he said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him. 25 After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. 26 News of this spread through all that region. 27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” 28 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they replied. 29 Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith will it be done to you”; 30 and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no-one knows about this.” 31 But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region. 32 While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. 33 And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.” 34 But the Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.” 35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” **Chapter 10** He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7 As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. 9 Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; 10 take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. 11 “Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. 12 As you enter the home, give it your greeting. 13 If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. 15 I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.