

What Sort of Man Is This?
Matthew 8:23-9:8

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Open Your Heart and Mind

- How does the absolute authority of Jesus contrast with the relativism of our day?

Finding God in His Word (Read Matthew 8:23-9:8)

- Thinking on the prosperity gospel, that God's desire and will for every Christian is for you to be healthy and wealthy, how does what we have been learning in chapter 8 speak against this?
- Why do you think people tend to get caught in the details of the miracles and miss what the purpose of the gospel writer might be? What can we, should we learn from the details themselves?
- Discuss how these three miracles demonstrate the divine nature and character of Jesus? Why is this an important thing for Christians to understand about Jesus?
- How does 8:28-34 speak to Jesus' authority over Satan himself?
- Why is it important for Christians to understand and believe that Jesus and Satan are not equally powerful, but that Satan and demons are always under the sovereign authority of God?
- In these stories we see the first of the oppositions to Jesus ministry that arise (the herdsman and people in the Gadarenes, and the Scribes), discuss the reasons these people oppose Jesus' ministry. What other reasons would you add? What do you think are some of the ultimate reasons for people to reject Jesus?
- We see three different promises in these miracles, God is with us, God cares for us, God provides for ultimate need. What are some of your takeaways from these applications?
- How do you think many people would answer the question, what is your greatest need? How do you answer that question?
- Explain the difference between suffering that comes as a result of your own sin and suffering that comes from living in a fallen world. (See also John 9)
- Looking at all of Matthew 8 and what we have seen in the first part of chapter 9, list at least 5 ways Matthew is demonstrating that Jesus is more (though not less) than a mere man.
- If someone said that Jesus never claimed to be divine, how would you be able to answer using these three stories?

Live the Christ Life

1. Are you in a storm you are needing to trust God is with you in? Ask your group to pray for you about this.