

# Demonstrating the Kingdom



Jesus went around doing good and healing  
all who were under the power of the devil,  
because God was with him | Acts 10:38



KIAMA ANGLICAN  
CHURCHES



## DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM.

This term we return to our study of Matthew’s gospel. You will remember that we left it almost two years ago at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. In that series we saw Jesus “Manifesto” for the Kingdom of Heaven. In these two chapters Jesus demonstrates what that Kingdom, and its King looks like.

### Program

Week Ending		Topic	Matthew	Page No
Sun 3 Feb	1	JESUS AND THE LEPER	7:28-8:4	4
Sun 10 Feb	2	JESUS AND THE CENTURION	8:5-13	5
Sun 17 Feb	3	JESUS AND THE MOTHER-IN-LAW	8:14-17	6
Sun 24 Feb	4	JESUS AND THE ‘DISCIPLES’	8:18-22	7
Sun 3 Mar	5	JESUS AND THE STORM	8:23-27	8
Sun 10 Mar	6	JESUS AND THE DEMONIACS	8:28-34	9
Sun 17 Mar	7	JESUS AND THE STORM	9:1-8	10
Sun 24 Mar	8	JESUS AND THE TAX COLLECTOR	9:9-13	11
Sun 1 Apr	9	JESUS AND THE WINESKINS	9:14-17	12
Sun 7 Apr	10	JESUS AND THE WOMEN	9:18-26	13
Sun 14 Apr	11	JESUS AND THE BLIND AND MUTE	9:27-34	14

### BOOKS

Wilkins, Michael J. Matthew (NIV Application Commentary) (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2004). *Excellent exposition and application sections.*

France, R.T. Matthew (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries) (IVP, Leicester, 1985). *One of the standards.*

Blomberg, C. Matthew (The New American Commentary) (Nashville, B&H Publishing, 1992) (*Semi-technical but very helpful insights.*)

*In addition this is a more technical commentary but regarded as the best:*

Carson D.A. “Matthew” in Expositors Bible Commentary (Revised) (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2010)

*And another technical but very helpful one:*

Osborne, G. R. Matthew (Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament) (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2010).

## MATTHEW 7:28-9:35

### Introduction

In Acts 10 when Peter is speaking to Cornelius the gentile Roman Centurion he says of Jesus: *“38 ... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.”*

Peter could well have been thinking of the events which take place in these two chapters as he spoke.

The Sermon on the Mount has given us Jesus' vision of the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven (or Kingdom of God as the other gospels call it) with its lessons on relationships to one another and to Yahweh and to the world around us.

Now Jesus, as the King in the Kingdom, is demonstrating just how this works out. Matthew presents us with nine miracle stories (containing ten actual miracles plus summaries of others).

Here we will see Jesus power over disability, disease, demons and the world of nature and, in that, we are assured of his rule in our world and in our lives.

As we study these 11 small sections of the scripture I trust that you will see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly\*.

*Greg Holmes,*

February 2019

*Matthew 11:2-6 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"*

*Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."*

*\* From St Richard of Chichester (13thC) or 'Godspell' depending on your generation.*

## Study 1: Matthew 7:28-8:4

# **JESUS AND THE LEPER**

### Before You Start

Reflect back on Jesus sermon in Chapters 5-7 and read 7:28-29.

What sort of Kingdom is Jesus proposing?

What effect does his sermon have on the hearers?

### Listen Carefully to Matthew 8:1-4

#### The Text (8:1-4)

1. When does this happen?
2. What does the man ask? What problem does he have? What tone does he use?
3. What is Jesus first response? Then what does he do?
4. What does he tell the leper to do?

### Connections

1. Why does the leper have to go to the priest?
2. What does Jesus saying, 'I am willing', signify?
3. What impact will this healing have for the leper?
4. What aspect of Jesus' Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

### Impact

1. What would you like Jesus to be willing to do for you? Why, or why not, might he do it?
2. How in this week can you be like Jesus in this story?

MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM

## Study 2: Matthew 8:5-13

# JESUS AND THE CENTURION

Listen Carefully to Matthew 8:5-13

### The Text

1. Who comes to Jesus? What is his request?
2. What is Jesus response? How does the Centurion “push back”?
3. What happens then?
4. What does Jesus say about the Centurion?

### Connections

1. Why is the fact that this man is a Centurion significant?
2. How does Jesus response to this man demonstrate how this is part of God’s ‘perfect finished plan’?
3. What warning to the onlookers is there in Jesus’ words?
4. What aspect of Jesus’ Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

### Impact

1. How can we have faith like the centurion?
2. What meaning do Jesus words in v11,12 have for us today?



MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM

## Study 3: Matthew 8:14-17

# JESUS AND THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

Listen Carefully to Matthew 8:14-17

### The Text

1. Where does this take place?
2. Who is healed first?
3. What happens in the evening?
4. What types of things did Jesus deal with?

### Connections

1. Is there any significance, do you think, in Peter's mother-in-law's reaction to her healing?
2. Look up Isaiah 53:4. Why does Matthew include this comment and quote in his account?
3. Look at Matthew 4:13; 8:5; 11:23; 17:24. Discuss the significance of Capernaum
4. What aspect of Jesus' Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

### Impact

1. What example does Peter's mother-in-law provide for us in responding to all that Jesus has done for us?
2. Should we expect God to heal all our sicknesses this side of eternity?

MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM

## Study 4: Matthew 8:18-22

# JESUS AND THE 'DISCIPLES'

Listen Carefully to Matthew 8:18-22

### The Text

1. Where does Jesus travel? Why make this move?
2. What two men approach Jesus now?
3. What pledge or excuse do they offer?
4. What is Jesus' response?

### Connections

1. What is the significance of the phrase - "The Son of Man has no place to lay his head"
2. What does Jesus mean by "let the dead bury their own dead"?
3. Note the extra person in the somewhat parallel account (Luke 9:57-62). What does this offer and response add to the meaning of this passage?
4. What do you think "follow" means in these people's minds?
5. What aspect of Jesus' Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

### Impact

1. Are you prepared to give up your 'nest' in order to follow Jesus? Or indeed give up family ties?
2. What priority does Jesus demand?

MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM

## Study 5: Matthew 8:23-27

# **JESUS AND THE STORM**

Listen Carefully to Matthew 8:23-27.

### The Text

1. How is Jesus traveling now?
2. What happens?
3. What is the Disciple reaction?
4. What is Jesus response and then action?
5. What is the 'men's' reaction?

### Connections

1. Note Psalm 107:23-32. How does Jesus' action reflect this? What does this say about who Jesus is? And about our reaction to Him?
2. Note the other Galilee incidents (Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 4:36-41; Luke 8:22-25; John 6:16-21) what do these add to our understanding of Jesus?
3. What aspect of Jesus' Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

### Impact

1. Craig Blomberg writes, "One who has this kind of power can be no less than God himself, worthy of worship, irrespective of when and how he chooses to use that power in our lives. Sometimes he leaves storms unstilled for good and godly ends (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:7-8)." Discuss.
2. What does Jesus power over this storm say to us about any fear we may have for our environmental circumstances?

MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM

## Study 6: Matthew 8:28-34

# JESUS AND THE DEMONIACS

Listen Carefully to Matthew 8:28-34.

### The Text

1. Where does the boat take Jesus and his disciples?
2. Who lived there?
3. How do they address Jesus?
4. What does Jesus say and do in response to the men's predicament?
5. What is the result for Jesus ministry?

### Connections

1. Why the 'process' with this account of Demon possession?
2. Why do the pigs get a role?
3. What is the significance of the Demon's knowledge of who Jesus is?
4. What aspect of Jesus' Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

### Impact

1. What is 'demon possession' all about? Does it exist now? In our society?
2. Note the reaction in the region (v34). How do we react to holiness?



MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM

## Study 7: Matthew 9:1-8

# **JESUS AND THE PARALYTIC**

Listen Carefully To Matthew 9:1-8

### The Text

1. Where is Jesus now?
2. What problem is he presented with?
3. What is His initial response? And how is that responded to?
4. Then what does Jesus do? With what result?

### Connections

1. Note the parallel passages in Mark 2:3-12 and Luke 5:18-26. What extra information are we given?
2. Why does Jesus initial response upset the 'teachers of the law' so? What is Jesus verbal response to them?
3. What does his healing of the man also say to the 'teachers'?
4. What aspect of Jesus' Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

### Impact

1. Reflect on the dedication of the paralyzed man's friends.
2. "Your sins are forgiven" Jesus says. Are yours? How?

MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM

## Study 8: Matthew 9:9-13

# JESUS AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

Listen Carefully to Matthew 9:9-13.

### The Text

1. What happens first in this passage? Why is it significant?
2. Note the events at the 'dinner party'. Who was there? What is the reaction?
3. Who do the Pharisees 'have a go' at?
4. What is Jesus response?

### Connections

1. What does Jesus mean by "It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick"?
2. And what does he mean by "'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'? Look up Hosea 6:6. Note the context - does this help us understand what Jesus is saying?
3. And then what does he mean by "For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners"?
4. What aspect of Jesus' Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

### Impact

1. Are you a 'sinner'? What has Jesus done about it?
2. Blomberg notes: "Jesus' fraternizing with disreputable people remains a scandal in the predominately middle class, suburban, Western, church. Many of us like, the Pharisees, at best ignore the outcast of our society and at worst continue to discriminate against them." Discuss.
3. How should we as Christians show mercy?

MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM

## Study 9: Matthew 9:9-13

# JESUS AND THE WINESKINS

Listen Carefully to Matthew 9:14-17

### The Text

1. Who now approaches Jesus?
2. What 3 parabolic sayings does Jesus use to illustrate his answer?
3. How do each of these work?

### Connections

1. What is the single point Jesus is making with these three little illustrations?
2. Where else in the Bible is the bride/bridegroom illustration used? Who is the bride and who is the bridegroom?
3. Why use three illustrations to make the point?
4. What aspect of Jesus' Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

### Impact

1. In what ways are you stuck with tearing clothes and burst wineskins?
2. What does this say about the way we should listen to Jesus?

MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM

## Study 10: Matthew 8:18-26

### **JESUS AND THE WOMEN**

Listen Carefully to Matthew 9:18-26.

#### The Text

First untangle the stories by reading 9:20-23,

This happens in the midst of the crowd that is following the initial interaction.

1. What is the problem?
2. How is it solved?

Now read 9:18-19 then 23-26.

3. What is the problem?
4. How is it solved?

#### Connections

1. From 9:20-23 Why does Jesus need to confront the woman?
2. From the other story 9:18-19,23-26 what does Jesus say about death?
3. What differing sorts of faith do the woman and the father show?
4. Why intertwine these stories? (It is not as if Matthew does this anywhere else.)
5. What aspect of Jesus' Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

#### Impact

1. Faith in Jesus or faith in things?
2. What thoughts do you have about death? How does Jesus help?



MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM

## Study 11: Matthew 9:18-22

### **JESUS AND THE BLIND AND MUTE**

Listen Carefully to Matthew 9:27-34

#### The Text

Again two somewhat different stories.

1. How do the blind men approach Jesus? What does Jesus do?
2. How does the mute man approach Jesus? What does Jesus do?
3. What is the Pharisees' response to these events?
4. Note verse 35 and Matthew 4:23. What do these verses imply about Matthew chapters 5-9?

#### Connections

1. What do the blind men call Jesus? Why is this significant?
2. Why is there a 'long' conversation with the blind men and just action with the mute man?
3. What is the contrast between the crowd's reaction and the Pharisees?
4. Note v30b (and 8:4) why does Jesus want things kept quiet?
5. What aspect of Jesus' Kingdom does this story demonstrate?

#### Impact

1. What great sin is represented by the Pharisees words in v34? How do we avoid such thinking?
2. Think back over the demonstrations of the Kingdom we have seen in the last several weeks. How has this impacted your vision of Jesus? How has it impacted the way you serve Him?

MATTHEW 8-9: DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM