

/Now we will begin the seventh course on the Gospel of Matthew. /We will begin at Matthew chapter 8. /The subject of chapter 8 is "The Centurion".

/First, "Jesus Heals the Leper". /Verses 1-4. /Second, "The Faith of the Centurion". /Verses 5-13. /Third, "Teachings Through His Power". /Verses 14-17.

/Fourth, "The Cost of Following Jesus". /Verse 18-22. /Fifth, "Way of Escaping Difficulties". /Verses 23-27. /Sixth, "Damages Caused by Demons". /Verses 28-34.

/Verses 1-3. Read. /When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.

A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.

/Jesus came down from the mountain after giving His Sermon on the Mount. /He came down to find a man with leprosy. /The leper came before Jesus and begged to be made clean.

/Here the man with leprosy symbolizes the sins that make man's soul perish. /The souls of people who do not believe in Jesus will perish. /Then they will die as a consequence of sin.

/This leper came and knelt before Jesus and begged. /This leper believed in the power of Jesus. /The leper believed that Jesus was the Son of God who has power to heal leprosy.

/The leper's action in kneeling before Jesus shows humble faith. /Today, we must take notice of the sins inside us that are rotting our souls. /However, we have already been forgiven of our sins through our faith in Jesus.

/Yet, we are still sinful. /We must go before Jesus and ask him to fix us so that we may be free of sinfulness. /This leper had desperate hope of being healed.

/Therefore, he asked that if Jesus were willing, He would make him clean. /Jesus immediately cured him of his leprosy.

/Verse 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."

/Jesus told the man not to tell anyone. /This means that we should not brag about or be off guard when we receive grace. /We must not brag about ourselves when we know that grace comes from God.

/Furthermore, we must be obedient, responsible, and submissive to what God entrusts us with. /Here we can see Moses' commands for giving offerings. /Leviticus 14:2-3. /The healed leper needed to follow the regulations on giving offerings to God.

/Today, there are duties believers must fulfill before God once we have believed in Jesus and have been cleansed. /We have already been cleansed of our sins. /Now that we have been cleansed, we must live according to God's will.

/We must live clean and pure lives. /Then we must give ourselves to God as holy offerings. /Our faith must allow us to devote ourselves before God.

/How grateful the healed leper must have been to be cleansed of his illness? /If not for God's grace, we would perish due to our sin. /Therefore, we must give thanks for God's grace and devote our lives to God.

/Verses 5-6. /When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.

"Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering."

/The centurion is a Roman citizen. /His servant was suffering from being paralyzed. /The centurion came before Jesus and begged Him to heal his servant. /The man of high rank came to ask for his servant.

/This shows that the centurion truly loved his servant. /The servant is man of low status. / Yet, the centurion loved his servant like his own. /The centurion had a heart that loved his servant like he was his son.

/Verse 7. /Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him."

/Jesus said that He would go and heal the servant. /Then the centurion replied.

/Verse 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.

/The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof." /"But just say the word." /"But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."

/The centurion was high in rank but humble in faith. /The centurion believed that Jesus was Son of the most powerful God. /He was humble. /He feared Jesus. /Deuteronomy 4:10.

/Also, the centurion knew that Jesus was almighty and could heal. /2 Kings 5:14 /Luke 5:5 /Cornelius also had such faith. /Acts 10:1-2 /Cornelius also feared God and always prayed and aided others.

/Verse 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."

/The centurion was a man under the authority of other men. /The centurion also had soldiers under his command. /Thus, when the centurion gave orders, the men under him had to obey. /In this same way, the centurion believed that everything in creation was under Jesus's commands.

/Jesus is God. /Everything in creation is under His rule. /He is absolutely sovereign. /Therefore, when Jesus speaks a word of command, all in creation will submit to Him. /Even the waves submit to Him. /Even the sun and the moon submit to Him.

/The oceans also submit to Him. /The winds submit to Him. /The sparrows are under Jesus' sovereignty. /The hairs on our heads are under Jesus' sovereignty. /Jesus is sovereign over life and death, and fortune and misfortunes. /Jesus is sovereign over the fish in the sea.

/Peter was unable to catch fish though he tried all night and when Jesus commanded him to "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch", /Peter obeyed and caught a large number of fish.

/Verse 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."

/Jesus complimented the centurion's faith. /It shows how difficult it is to meet a man with such faith. /The centurion's faith was worthy of being complimented by Jesus. /Jesus acknowledged the centurion's faith.

/Verses 11-13. /"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.

But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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.

/Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are in heaven. /The centurion was a Gentile and yet he had great faith. /The centurion, who is a Gentile, can also go to heaven. /However, even among the Jews who were from the line of Abraham, there were many who did not believe in Jesus.

/There are many unbelievers among the Jews. /They are descendants of Abraham, yet they do not believe. /Jesus said that the future generations of the unbelievers would perish. /Certainly, there were many among the Jews who believed.

/However, Jesus said that those who do not believe would perish. /Furthermore, Jesus said that the Gentiles who believe would be saved. /He said those who believe would sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in heaven.

/Jesus said to the centurion, "It will be done just as you believed it would." /The centurion believed and went home. /His servant was healed just how the centurion believed. /The servant was healed according to the centurion's faith. /We must have faith like the centurion.

/Verses 14-15. /When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.

He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

/Peter was married. /Peter had a wife. /Peter also had a mother-in-law. /His mother-in-law became ill with a fever. /Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. /Then Peter's mother-in-law waited on Jesus.

/This shows that Jesus first healed sickness of the spirit. /Jesus healed physical sickness as a sign of healing of spiritual sickness. /Thus, we must remember that healing of the sickness of the heart is more important than healing of the physical.

/Verse 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.

/Jesus healed the sick that were demon-possessed. /He drove out the demons. /Jesus' power defeated the works of the demons.

/Verse 17. /This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

/Jesus bore our illnesses and healed them. /Jesus was never physically ill. /However, He knew the pain in the hearts of those suffering from physical illnesses. /Hence, Jesus healed all types of illnesses.

/Furthermore, Jesus healed the illnesses of the spirit. /Jesus is Christ and He embraced our weaknesses.

/Jesus rectified all the illnesses that resulted from sin. /This was written in Isaiah 53:4. /Jesus came just as God said He would.

/Verses 18-19. /When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake.

Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you

wherever you go."

/One man said that he would follow Jesus. /This man was a teacher of the law who transcribed the Bible. /He was a man who studied the Bible. /This man said that he would follow Jesus.

/Verse 20. /Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

/Jesus answered this man. /Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests. /But the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. /Why did Jesus reply in this way? /The teacher of the law thought that that he would have plenty to eat and would have a good life if he followed Jesus.

/The teacher of the law thought that he would be successful in life. /He knew how to achieve success in on earth. /However, Jesus said that following Him would be a difficult path. /Following Jesus does not mean others will serve you.

/The path is the road of the cross. /It is the road of suffering. /However, it is the road of life. /Therefore, to think that the way of following Jesus is easy is a misunderstanding and a miscalculation.

/Jesus said that foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests. /Foxes have homes just as people do. /Even those who are servants of the devil have homes. /Luke 13:32 /Luke 8:12 /Jesus said that the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.

/Jesus meant that He would not keep His mind on earth. /Jesus' ministry was for heaven, and not of this world. /2 Corinthians 4:18 /John 18:36

/Jesus put the kingdom of God first at the head. /Jesus made God His shelter and refuge. /Jesus lived in the heart of God.

/Verse 21. /Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

/The second man said that he wanted to first go and bury his father. /He meant that he would follow Jesus after his father's funeral. /However, the man's father had not died yet.

/One day, the man's father would die. /He did not know when that would be, but he said that he would follow Jesus after his father's death and funeral. /If his father were to die at that moment then he would have to attend to his father's funeral.

/The man's father had not passed away yet. /His father was old. /His father would pass away one day. /He meant that he would follow Jesus after his father passed and after he had attended his father's funeral.

/Verse 22. /But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

/Jesus said to let the dead bury their own dead. /Jesus meant that the dead should bury the dead souls. /He meant that the unbelievers should attend to the funerals of the dead.

/Those who do not believe are those with dead souls. /Ephesians 2:1 /Then Jesus said, "Follow me." /We must follow Jesus, and walk down the road of life.

/Certainly, we must honor our parents. /We must hold funerals for our parents. /However, our parents must not hold us back from following Jesus. /This man meant that he would gradually believe in Jesus.

/Jesus meant that we should act on our faith immediately. /We must not focus on dying. /We must focus on living. /We must think about how our souls could live.

/We must also think about how we can save others' souls. /It is also wrong to think about the sizes of graves for the purpose of bragging about the quality and measurements of the graves. /We must not spend a large sum of money on the dead.

/We must focus on living and work hard in saving souls. /This is what pleases God. /We must immediately believe, /we must walk down the path of life, /we must immediately follow Jesus.

/In Luke 9:61, /another man says that he will follow Jesus. /Then he asked for time to say goodbye to his family. /Jesus then replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

/When following Jesus, we must not come to a halt. /Of course we can take time to say goodbyes to our families. /However, we must follow Jesus first before our families. /Jesus chose Peter and His other disciples.

/"Come, follow me." /"I will make you fishers of men." /The disciples left their boats and father and nets, and followed Jesus.

/Verses 23-25. /Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.

Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

/Mark 4:35-39. /Jesus was in a boat with His disciples. /Then suddenly a fierce squall came up. /The Sea of Galilee is surrounded by mountains in all directions. /The Sea is thirteen kilometers in width, and sixteen kilometers in height. /Thirteen kilometers, sixteen kilometers.

/The boat was caught in the sudden storm. /At the time, Jesus was asleep on a cushion in the stern. /The disciples woke Jesus up. /They were trembling with fear of dying in the storm.

/Jesus slept comfortably. /We face many storms in life. /In those moments we must not be anxious. /We must not be afraid. /Psalm 50:15 /Psalm 62:1

/When we meet storms in our lives, we must call out to Jesus. /We must seek Jesus and lean on Him. /Why were the disciples afraid? /They were afraid because they did not have faith. /Then why wasn't Jesus afraid and why was He sleeping comfortably?

/Jesus stepped out with great faith. /What is the faith of Jesus? /First, He believed in God's sovereignty. /He believed in God's absolute sovereignty. /Jesus believed that the matter of life and death was not in the hands of the storm, but in God.

/Second, Jesus lived by life of the spirit, not by flesh. /Philippians 1:21 /"To live is Christ and to die is gain." /We must not live by flesh, but live life of the spirit.

/Then it is okay if the flesh becomes ill, if we die, or if we live. /2 Corinthians 5:1 /John 11:25-26 /John 11:25-26 /Daniel kept his faith in the lions' den.

/Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego kept their faith in the blazing furnace. /They were not afraid of death. /They were not afraid because they lived by the spirit of Jesus. /Third, Jesus believed in God's power.

/"Our God is a powerful God who can calm the storms." /"God is a powerful God and is sovereign over the Red Sea and the Jordan River." /Fourth, Jesus knew that God had a calling for Him.

/Jesus believed that He would not die because God had a calling for Him. /Jesus came to die on the cross. /It was not yet time for Him to die.

/We each have a calling in life. /God saves us because of our calling. /We will not die before we fulfill our calling.

/Verse 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.

/Being afraid of a storm is a sign of little faith. /Luke 8:25 /Jesus rebuked the winds and the waves, and it became completely calm. /Jesus calmed the ocean with His power.

/Jesus is sovereign over the winds and the seas. /When we are in the midst of storms and trials, we must cry out to Jesus. /We must not be afraid of the storm, and we must not be afraid of dying. /We must cry out to God in the midst of our troubles.

/Verse 27. /The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

/The disciples then knew who Jesus was. /They believed that even the winds and waves

obey Jesus.

/Verse 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.

/There were two demon-possessed men living between the tombs. /These possessed men were violent and terrifying. /The men also caused damage and harm to others. /These men did as the demons commanded them. /The demons are Satan's inferiors.

/Verse 29. /"What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"

/At that moment the demons shouted. /Demons know that Jesus is the Son of God. /James 2:19 /However, demons cannot be saved. /Jesus chose us as His people and through Him we have been redeemed.

/There is no correlation between Jesus and demons. /Demons know that when the time comes they will die. /Demons know that they will eternally be destroyed before God.

/Verses 30-32. /Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding.

The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

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.

/There was a herd of 2,000 pigs feeding nearby. /The demons begged Jesus to send them into the herd of pigs. /They were given permission and went into the herd of pigs. /The pigs ran into the lake and they all died.

/There are specific lessons to be seen here. /First, evil spirits exist. /They are not seen with the eye but they exist. /Fallen angels became demons. /Second, demons always cause damage. /They bring damage to people and also to animals.

/Demons tempt people and destroy their lives. /Third, one person's life is more precious than 2,000 demons. /A person's life is more important than materials. /It is more important for a person to be saved than to gain materialistic goods.

/Fourth, demons are more powerful than man, and Jesus is more powerful than demons. /Demons are more powerful than man, and Jesus is more powerful than demons. /Fifth, business done with greed will receive judgment. /In the Old Testament times, people did not eat pork. /Leviticus 11:7

/It was okay to eat pork in the New Testament times. /Many people at the time raised pigs with greed for profit. /They ultimately failed because they tried to make money with greedy hearts.

/Verses 33-34. /Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.

Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

/The people tending the pigs saw Jesus' power but did not believe in Jesus. /Rather, they kicked Jesus out from the town. /They were afraid the other pigs would die as well.

/The people kicked Jesus out because they thought their jobs were at risk. /If they had accepted Jesus, they would have received eternal life. /The townspeople were foolish people.

/They considered pigs more precious than man. /They considered money more precious than the life of one person.

/Their eyes grew dark with greed for materialistic goods. /They did not receive Jesus. /Therefore, there was no other way for them than to perish.

/This concludes the seventh course on the Gospel of Matthew. /Thank you.