

Christ Church, New Haven
Sunday Forum: The Gospel According to St. Matthew
October 8, 2023—Miracles and the Mission Discourse

Questions for Reflection

Consider the various acts of healing Jesus performs in these chapters (listed below)—healings of body, mind, and spirit. How are healing and faith related in these stories? In your life, what have you sought healing for, and where have you turned for healing? Where might you ask Jesus for healing today?

As he sends his disciples into the world, Jesus cautions them the good news they carry may lead to division or even violence (Matthew 10:16-23). When has an important truth carried the risk of setting you apart from those around you? How have you approached this situation?

The disciples set out with literally nothing but the clothes on their backs (Matthew 10:9-10), trusting that their needs will be provided for. In your life, where do you place your trust? What feelings come along with placing your trust in someone or something? What does trust in God mean for you?

The crowds at the Sermon on the Mount were amazed at Jesus, who taught “as one having authority” (7:29). Where does Jesus exercise authority in Matthew 8-10? What kind of authority is it?

Outline/Notes for Matthew 8-10

Ten miracles (Matthew 8-9)

1. Cleansing the leper (8:1-4)—compare to Mark 1:40-45
2. Healing the centurion’s servant (8:5-13)
3. Healing Peter’s mother-in-law (8:14-15)
4. Rebuking the winds (8:23-27)
5. Exorcism of the Gadarene demoniacs (8:28-9:1)—compare to Mark 5:1-20
6. Healing of the paralytic (9:2-8)—notice in this story who has faith and who doesn’t
7. Healing of the hemorrhaging woman (9:20-22)—why the detail of “twelve years”?
8. Raising the daughter of the synagogue leader (9:23-26)
9. Restoring the sight of two blind men (9:27-31)
10. Exorcism of the mute demoniac (9:32-34)

Interludes on discipleship (Matthew 8-9)

1. The scribe and the disciple (8:18-22)
2. Tax collectors and sinners (9:10-17)

9:10 tax collectors: In the Roman Empire, taxes were collected by “independent contractors” who would collect more than what was owed and keep the difference, leading to exploitation. As collaborators with the Roman occupying forces, tax collectors were viewed as especially sinful/unclean.

8:20, 9:6, 10:23 Son of Man: The Book of Daniel (7:13 and following) describes “one like a son of man” who is given a universal and eternal kingship.

The Mission Discourse (Matthew 10)

10:29-31 sparrows: compare to Jesus’s teaching about “birds of the air,” Matthew 6:25-34