

**Matthew 8: Faith, Favor, & Fear**

**Instructions:** As you read the guide and the bible, write down any questions you come across. Try to find the answer on your own, but if you can't or do not know where to look, post your questions in the discussion. If you do find the answers, post your answers in the discussion. Chances are someone else had the same questions and you can help them out.

**Summary:**

We will go through Jesus teachings very in depth as this is our whole purpose for studying the word, to understand his teachings and follow them.

Verse	Summary
1	After Yeshua came down from the mountain, many people followed him.
2-3	A diseased person with leprosy went and <u>bowed to</u> and <u>asked</u> Yeshua to cleanse him and he was cleansed <u>immediately</u> .
4	Yeshua told the man not to <u>tell</u> anyone that he healed him. Instead, he told the man to go and <u>show</u> the priest that he had been healed and offer the gift that Moses commanded as a testimony to them.
5-7	As Yeshua was entering into the city of Capernaum, a Roman military officer went to him and <u>asked</u> him to heal his servant who was paralyzed. <u>Yeshua agreed to go and heal the servant</u> .
8	But the military officer told Yeshua <u>he was not worthy to have Yeshua in his home</u> , but if Yeshua would just <u>speak healing</u> over the servant he would be healed.
9	The officer went on to explain that as a person of authority he could command men and whatever he told them to do would be done. Inferring that <u>Yeshua had the power to command healing</u> in the same manner.
10	Yeshua was amazed at this Roman's level of faith and said that <u>this level of faith was not found in his own people</u> .
11-12	He says that many (gentiles) would make it to the kingdom of heaven, but many of <u>God's own children would be cast into outer darkness</u> , where they would suffer.
13	Yeshua told the Roman to go his way and his servant would be healed <u>according to his belief or faith</u> . The servant was <u>healed within the hour</u> .
14 -15	Yeshua went to Peter's house. Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a fever. <u>He touched her hand</u> and the fever left her. The <u>women got up and begin serving or caring for them</u> .
16	When evening came, people brought him many people who were possessed with evil spirits and <u>Yeshua cast out the spirits with a word</u> and he healed all who were sick.
17	He did this in order <u>to fulfill prophecy</u> written by Isaiah which says that Yeshua would take our weakness and bare our sickness.
18	Now when Yeshua saw that the <u>multitudes</u> were all around him, he told them to <u>go to the other side</u> .

19-20	A scholar went to him and told him that he wanted to follow him were ever he went. Yeshua explained to him that he had no place to live.
21-22	Another disciple asked Yeshua if he could go bury his father before they left for their journey, but Yeshua said, No – “ <u>Let the dead bury the dead</u> ”.
23-25	Yeshua went on a ship and the disciples followed him. As Yeshua slept a storm caused the waves to roar and the ship to was covered with water. The disciples went to Yeshua and woke him up in panic saying they would die.
26	He asked the disciples why they were so fearful and affirmed that they had little faith. Than he arose and rebuked the winds and the sea and it became calm.
27	The disciples were amazed and questions what kind of man could have power over the wind and the sea.
28	When Yeshua reached the country of the Gergesenes (meaning stranger approaching) he came across two demons coming out of tombs. Everyone was afraid to pass near the area.
29	When they saw Yeshua, they cried out, “What business do you have with us Yeshua, son of God? Have you come to afflict us before the appointed time?”
30-31	There were pigs eating a distance away and the demons asked him, “If you will cast us, allow us to go into the pigs?”
32-33	Yeshua permitted them to go into the pigs and the pigs ran down a steep ledge, into the sea and died. The people who were feeding the pigs ran into the city and told everyone what had happened.
34	The people from the city went to Yeshua and asked him to leave their city.

**Instructions:** Read Matthew Chapter 8 in the King James Version and answer the questions below.

1. What are some deeper ideas and themes you notice about the story in Matthew 8?
2. Does anything speak to you?

**Instructions:** Take a second look at each of these messages in Matthew 8 and find the lessons hidden within each message.

### **General Insights:**

Chapter 8 is all about faith, favor, and fear. The leper and Roman officer demonstrated faith. Peter’s mother-in-law and all the people healed of devils and sickness received a demonstration of favor. The disciples, demons, and the people of Gergesenes demonstrated fear.

This is yet another powerful revelation. Some are healed by faith, some by favor, but those “strangers” who demonstrate fear run into their own destruction.

It is also notable that although his disciples demonstrated fear, he saved them because of favor. They had a God-given purpose to serve, so they received favor. The Roman, on the

other hand, demonstrated great faith for the healing of his servant, who was more than likely a Hebrew since they were the lower class of people. He received according to his faith in Yeshua.

### **Insights for Application to Life:**

- Yeshua healed in the presence of the multitude in order to increase faith. (Matthew 8:1)
- In verse 2-3, Yeshua healed the leper who first recognized him as one worthy of honor, then asked him for healing. His healing was immediate. This reminds us, healing can be immediate.
- In verse 4, Yeshua tells the leper not to tell anyone, but to go to the priest and present an offering to show the priest what Yah had done, and this was his testimony, which he was to demonstrate to others, not just say it.

Often we tell others how Yah has healed or deliver us, but we fell to demonstrate through our actions that healing and deliverance has taken place in us. Yeshua says don't talk about it, be about it!

Another point made in this verse is that the leper was to demonstrate his healing before the priest in a manner the priest would accept and understand. In those days the religious authorities strictly believed in the teachings of Moses as being the only and final way of the Most High. So, he told the leper to offer a gift as Moses commanded, the gift he was referring to appears to be two birds, one sacrificed and one set free. (Leviticus 14:2-32) I believe this is symbolic of killing the old thing we have been delivered from and being set free.

- In verses 5 through 9, the centurion, which is a Roman military officer, went to Yeshua and demonstrated great faith, but notice that Yeshua had already agreed to go and heal his servant before he demonstrated such great faith. But why? We will see later chapter 15 that he was no fan of answering the call of those whom he was not sent here for and we see that even the Roman recognized himself as unworthy. Maybe because he was requesting healing for his servant and not for himself, maybe because his servant was Hebrew or simply of lowly status. We know that Yeshua had much compassion for the poor. The bible does not tell us, but it's something to think about.

Nonetheless, the Roman's story demonstrates for us the level of faith we should have and the power of Yah we all possess when we believe Yeshua did what the word says he did. (John 14:12) It also demonstrates the authority of Yeshua and of those who truly believe in him. We are like officers in an army who have been given authority to command certain things by the power of the Most High.

- Verse 10 reminds us that Israel has always lacked in faith.

- Matthew 8:11-12 is a real eye-opener. Yeshua teaches us that gentiles will reach the kingdom of heaven, while children of the kingdom would be cast into outer darkness and would suffer.

This scripture is often misinterpreted to mean that the children of God will be cast into the eternal fire. If so, how could we reconcile the words of Yah to the words of Yeshua when Yahweh says in Isaiah 45:17: “But Israel shall be saved in Yah with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.” This is also expressed in many other old testament prophecies and even what Paul says, in reference to ancient scripture, in Romans 11:26, “And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob...”

SeemS like a contradiction? Its only because we have been taught by man with limited understanding.

*“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:”- Isaiah 29:13*

See, Yah says throughout Isaiah that we would come out of darkness. So what then? Darkness is ignorance which leads to sin that leads us into suffering and destruction. It is not an eternal hell, but a place in life where our ignorance separates us from our God and thus from His light. But he promises to bring us out of that darkness.

*“And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.” – Isaiah 29:18*

Yeshua will make this same reference 2 more times in Matthew, explaining it more each time.

- Yeshua tells the centurion that his servant is healed to the extent that he believes he is and the servant was healed within the hour. In this story, the healing wasn't instant, but it did not take forever. Furthermore, it tells us that we are delivered to the extent that we believe we are, but our faith has to be in something real – it has to be in Yah and in Yeshua, whom He sent. (Matthew 8:13)
- Peter's mother was healed with a touch and the word does not tell us if she had faith or not, nor did it show anyone else petitioning on her behalf. It is safe to say that she had favor. Yeshua healed her because he found her worthy and she had a purpose. Notice that she immediately got up and began ministering to them, which means serving them. (Matthew 8:14-15)
- Yeshua delivered many people from demons and sickness, thus fulfilling prophecy. Here we see that some deliverances are not merely for faith nor favor,

but because God said it would be so or for the fullness of his prophecy to be manifested. (Matthew 16-17)

- Verse 18 demonstrates that there is a time and a place for everything. Notice how Yeshua tends to separate himself from the multitudes to have certain conversations. Here he tells the scribe that he does not have a place to live, in private, and instructs a disciple to follow him without first burying his father. (Matthew 18-21)
- In verse 22, Yeshua tells one of his disciple let the dead bury the dead. It sounds mysterious, but what he is demonstrating to us is that we must follow him and forsake tradition, family, etc. to the extent that we place our journey with him ahead of all the things of this world.

He is also referring to those who have not found truth as being dead and they will bury the dead, but the disciple, being on this journey as one who lives, has a mission to accomplish that must be more important than burying his deceased father.

- Matthew 8:23-27 teaches us that even Yeshua's followers had little faith, but they had favor because they had a God-given purpose. Do you know that living your purpose brings you favor, even when you are weak in your faith?
- Verses 28 through 34 is another wake up call, but there are a couple of lessons here.
  1. Jesus went into a country of strangers, that is non-Israelites, where he encountered demons who feared him and they fled because of their fear. In the same manner the people of that town allowed fear to stop them from receiving Yeshua.
  2. When the demons encountered Yeshua they went and killed the pigs they had possessed with fear. Fear is a demonic power that when it possesses you it will lead you away from the truth and into your own destruction.
  3. This entire city was possessed by fear demons, it wasn't just that the demons that were in the tombs feared the son of God, but everything it encountered also feared him.
  4. Last but certainly not least, Yeshua demonstrated that, like him, we have power over fear. Fear needs our permission to do anything and we have the power to afflict it. Fear is afraid of us, so we give it its power, because the moment we command it to flee it must flee.

### **Deep Thought:**

1. Do you believe that Yeshua healed these people instantly with a word or a touch? Yes or No
2. Do you believe that you have been given access to the same authority as Yeshua? Yes or No
3. Do you think your current life are mostly a result of you faith, favor, or fear? Yes or No

4. Are you a disciple, living out your God-given purpose? Yes or No
5. What will you do to increase your faith and live out your God-given purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Final Thoughts:**

There are three paths in every situation at any given period of one's life. We are either overcoming by faith, have the favor of God because we have a divine purpose, or we are being overcome by fear.

Yeshua teaches us in this chapter that fear is not something to be proud of and it is the opposite of faith. The word demonstrates that fear is not from God, but from the devil and it leads us to destruction and to miss out on his presence and the blessings that being in his presence can deliver. Just like the strangers, many of us tend to run from the truth of Yeshua in fear. But he teaches us that God has given us power over fear, either by faith or by favor. Through faith we can command fear with our God-given authority.

Interestingly, fear is afraid of us when we have the Spirit of God in us – when we exist as the sons and daughters of the Most High and not as the Gergesenes – strangers drawing near. Which brings me to an even deeper message. If we exist as strangers drawing near to our God, we are vulnerable to be possessed by fear and to run from Him in fear. So let's not act as strangers, but take our place as God's children with the power to command fear demons to flee and the authority to heal with a word or by a touch. Let's believe that we have favor, because we have purpose.

In Isaiah 42:6 our father tells us our purpose: "I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles..." Yeshua confirmed it in Matthew 5:14: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

But how can we be a light lest we come out of darkness?

P.S. If you have questions, ask. If you don't have questions than share what you've learned in the discussion group so you can help others to understand.