



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 8-9
- John 6
- John 11
- Luke 8:40-56

LET THE DEAD BURY THE DEAD

- Matthew 8 Debrief
- Matthew 9 Debrief
- Excuses and Reasons

Water finds the path of least resistance. Want proof? Just place a barrier into any stream, and the water will simply find the easy way around it. It won't first choose to climb over the barrier. It would only do that if its path is blocked completely, otherwise it takes the way of least opposition. Pour water on any flat surface and it seeks to descend into every crack and indentation. Water would rather go lower than sit on top.

Disciples, unfortunately, cannot take the same easy way around as does water. When obstacles block their progress, disciples must choose to stay on top, to take the high ground; they must opt for the hard road. In fact, Y'shua often separated Himself and moved to higher ground, or to the other side of the sea, or He delivered an impossible message, just to separate who would follow from those

who would take the path of least resistance. The journey of a disciple begins with some miraculous encounter with the Lord and then moves to this phase; "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And then Y'shua challenges your offer with some version of this; "Okay, let's get started! Here is what you can expect as one of My followers; it will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty. Still want to follow?"

And, as soon as it does not appear to be all sunshine and rainbows, too often the would-be follower reacts with some form of excuse: I'm coming, but let me go check my work schedule first; or let me get the approval of my wife; or let me calculate the current valuation of my stock portfolio; or let me evaluate the condition of my business ventures, so I can determine if it's a good time for me. Note to self: it's NEVER a good time!

Other times the disciple-to-be bypasses the "I'll get back to you phase" altogether, and just fast-tracks his excuse, conceding quickly to his wind-blown thinking, "Thank you, but no thank you; I changed my mind." It's a life of excuses that fuels the easy way around, rather than a life of reasons; reasons to energize a leap over the barrier; or reasons to empower knocking it down; or reasons to simply exercise the patience necessary to wait in front of it, until it crumbles before your faith.

Then there are those who do jump right in, but when it gets challenging, that is when they change their minds; their past life starts to look so good again. As such, they return to their old ways and never look back. Others have even convinced themselves that they really did choose to follow, only to realize when pressed that they never actually joined in the first place. They are easily exposed as being completely unprepared when asked, "Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?" Such a question leaves them speechless. If that is you, things will end very badly.

I guess the question remains, "Which type of 'disciple' are you?" When He says, "Follow Me into a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty!" do you tell Him you will get back to Him after you check your schedule; that you might have some dead bodies to bury. Or do you say, "Lord, to whom else shall I go? You are the only One with the words of eternal life." And for good doctrine's sake, let's make this clear; the only true disciple is the one who sees "zero" as a perfectly acceptable option!

PROPHETIC SEED:

"And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, **"Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."** And

Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but **the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**” Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, **let me first** go and bury my father.” **But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”**” Matthew 8:18-22 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, **“This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”**” John 6:60 NKJV

“From that time **many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.** Then Jesus said to the twelve, **“Do you also want to go away?”** But Simon Peter answered Him, **“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.** Also we have come to believe and know that **You are the Christ,** the Son of the living God.”” John 6:66-69 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week we peered into the final chapter in the Sermon on the Mount in [Six Degrees of Separation](#). As you experienced, it might have been the most challenging section of all. Why? Because it forced us into a deep self-examination. It posed these questions...

“Have you looked inside your own heart? Are you seeking the things of God with all the right motives? What path are you walking and what fruit are you bearing? And, in the end, what will you be known for? Have you built a life of faith on a solid foundation, or is it all a house of cards?” The testing is coming and the truth will be known by all, but especially two: Him and you!

This week miracles abound. A leper is cleansed; a centurion’s servant is healed of his torment; Peter’s mother-in-law has her fever lifted; and many others are delivered from their demon possession and healed of their sicknesses.

We get a sneak peak at the cost of discipleship; it could be a thankless job and a life of zero possessions, zero security and zero certainty. We see the power of Christ to rebuke the winds and the waves in the presence of a frightened core of disciples: “O you of little faith.” We see demons being cast out of men and into pigs and we watch the pigs rush off a cliff into the sea.

More miracles are displayed with the healing of a paralytic man, but this time he does so by forgiving his sins. Why? Because there are religious leaders looking on and He is making a very specific statement about His identity as the Son of Man and His authority to forgive sins.

Matthew is called to leave his old life behind and to follow the Christ. Y’shua dines with a houseful of sinners, again to make a

specific statement to religious leaders. Then Y'shua teaches us about fasting.

We see the woman with the twelve-year issue of blood healed and a twelve-year old girl raised from the dead. The blind see, the mute speak and the people need a shepherd, because the fields are ripe for harvest.

Matthew 8

Y'shua Cleanses a Leper

1. A leper worships Y'shua and says, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."
2. Y'shua touches him, and says, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy is cleansed.
3. Y'shua tells him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Y'shua Heals a Centurion's Servant

4. A Roman officer in command of 100 soldiers addresses Y'shua as "Lord" and tells Him about his servant who is "paralyzed and dreadfully tormented."
5. Y'shua immediately says that He, "will come and heal him."
6. The officer sees Y'shua's offer as sure thing, comparing Y'shua's authority over this sickness to how utterly predicable it is that

every man under his own authority obeys any of his commands instantly.

7. Yet, he feels unworthy for Y'shua to enter his home (presumably because he is a pagan Roman).
8. He KNOWS that Y'shua does not even need to come to his home; all He needs to do is speak it and his servant will be healed.
9. Y'shua marveled at this man's level of faith, a faith greater than any in Israel!
10. Y'shua connects this moment to the prophecy that Gentiles will come into the the kingdom even while many natural born Israelites reject it!.
11. Y'shua dismisses the officer telling him that as was his faith so goes his request, and his servant was healed that same hour.

Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed

12. Peter's mother-in-law was sick. Y'shua touched her hand and she was healed. She immediately rises to served them.

Many Others Healed

13. Then, many who were demon-possessed and sick were healed with a word just as Isaiah had prophesied: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

The Cost of Discipleship

14. The healing attracted many many people.

15. Y'shua departs to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. (He often moved on from the crowds, allowing certain natural barriers to separate those who would do whatever necessary to follow Him, from those who won't.)
16. A certain scribe claimed he, "would follow Y'shua wherever He went." And Y'shua warns him that it will be a life of And Y'shua warns him that it will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty.
17. One of His disciples wants to bury His father first and he is told to let the dead bury their own dead.

The Wind and Waves Obey Y'shua

18. Y'shua gets in a boat and His disciples followed Him.
19. Suddenly a great storm stirs the sea and rocks the boat with "life threatening" waves.
20. Y'shua is fast asleep while His disciples panic. They wake Him afraid for their lives.
21. A standard admonition follows: "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?"
22. He arose, rebuked the winds and the sea, and all became calm.
23. He disciples marveled, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" (I guess all the miracles were not shocking enough.)

Two Demon-Possessed Men Healed

24. They arrive on the other side of the Galilee and are immediately confronted with two violent demon-possessed men who stood in their way.
25. Interestingly, the demons know who He is! “Y’shua, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”
26. The demons beg Him that if He intends to dispossess them that He cast them into the herd of nearby swine, and He does.
27. The whole herd of swine then rush violently off a cliff and perish in the water.
28. The pig herders run to the city to report the demon-possessed-men-pig-incident and the whole city came out to meet Y’shua and beg Him to depart. (I guess they love their demons and pigs.)

Matthew 9

Y’shua Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

29. Y’shua gets back into the boat and crosses over to His own city (back to Capernaum). Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed.
30. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”
31. And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”

32. But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’?”
33. He wanted to make the point that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—so He tells the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” And he does!
34. The multitudes marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Matthew the Tax Collector

35. Y’shua then calls Matthew the tax collector to be a disciple and he follows.
36. Soon after, He gathers for a meal with many tax collectors and sinners and His disciples.
37. The Pharisees question His associations and Y’shua famously replies...
1. “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”
 2. “Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.””

Y’shua Questioned about Fasting

38. The disciples of John (the Baptizer) ask, “Why they and the Pharisees fast often, but His disciples don’t?”

39. Y'shua identifies Himself as the bridegroom and equates fasting with mourning. As long as the bridegroom is with them—there is no need to mourn.
40. One day the bridegroom will be gone, and then you can fast.
41. Garments & Wineskins (old paradigms can't contain or explain the new revelation of Christ)
1. You can't patch an old garment with new cloth. It will never stay put. If you try it will make things worse.
 2. You can't put new wine into old dry wineskins. As it ferments and expands, the inflexible old wineskins will not be able to stretch (adapt) and they will break.

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

42. Matthew then records his version of the woman with the issue of blood and the raising of Jairus' daughter as seen in more detail in Luke 8:40-56.
43. Jairus (the ruler of the synagogue) came and worshiped Him, saying, "His daughter had just died, but to come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."
44. On His way to Jairus' house a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. (See: [The Reason](#))
45. She is immediately healed: "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well."

46. Then He heads to Jairus' house and a noisy crowd is mourning her death.
47. Y'shua famously says, "The girl is not dead, but sleeping." And he is ridiculed by them mourners.
48. The crowd is sent out of the house and He proceeds to raise the twelve year old girl from the dead.
49. The report of the dead rising goes into all that land.

Two Blind Men Healed

50. Two blind men followed Y'shua asking for mercy. They knew He was the Messiah as they called Him the, "Son of David."
51. Y'shua asks them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"
52. They say, "Yes, Lord." He touched their eyes, "According to your faith let it be to you." (And their eyes were opened.)
53. Y'shua warned them not to share their miracle, but they did not listen and spread the news about Him in the whole area.

A Mute Man Speaks

54. Then a mute and demon-possessed man is brought for healing and deliverance.
55. When the demon was cast out he spoke and the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"
56. But the Pharisees accused Y'shua of partnering with Satan, by casting out demons by Satan's authority.

The Harvest is Plentiful, The Laborers are Few

57. Y'shua ministered and taught all over the region...

1. He taught in the synagogues.
2. He preached about the gospel of the kingdom.
3. He healed every type of sickness and disease.

58. He had compassion on the multitudes because they were a tired and scattered people with no shepherd.

59. He pointed out to His disciples that there are so many souls to harvest and so few ministers to do the harvesting.

60. He tells His disciples to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out ministers into His harvest. (In other words, be praying because I am about to send you!)

61. Click this [link](#) to see a map of the region where all the events of this study occurred, so you can get a visceral feel for it.

MATTHEW 8 DEBRIEF

1. ...as a testimony to them!

A. Y'shua Cleanses a Leper

(1) The LAW attached to the FAITH!

(a) Immediately after the Sermon on the Mount...

1. **“When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.** And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Then Jesus put out

His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, "**See that you tell no one;** but go your way, **show yourself to the priest,** and **offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.**" Matthew 8:1-4 NKJV

- a) A leper worships Y'shua as He comes down from the mountain where He delivered the Sermon on the Mount, and says, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."
- b) Y'shua touches him, and says, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy is cleansed.
- c) Y'shua tells him, "See that you tell no one; but **go your way, show yourself to the priest,** and offer the gift **that Moses commanded,** as a testimony to them."

(2) This should now make more sense than ever!

(a) Y'shua came to fulfill the law!

- 1. "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill.**"
Matthew 5:17 NKJV

(b) The Law Concerning Leprosy (Read Leviticus 13-14)

1. ““When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling, a scab, or a bright spot, and it becomes on the skin of his body like a leprous sore, **then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests.**”
Leviticus 13:2 NKJV
2. “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “This shall be the law of the leper for the day of his cleansing: **He shall be brought to the priest.** And the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall examine him; and indeed, if the leprosy is healed in the leper, **then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds,** cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.” Leviticus 14:1-4 NKJV
 - a) This is precisely what Y’shua told the leper to do, *“go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift **that Moses commanded,** as a testimony to them.”*
 - b) See: The Healing of Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-19)
 - a) “And he [Naaman] returned to the man of God [Elisha], he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, “Indeed, **now I know that there is no God in all the earth,**

except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant.””II Kings 5:15 NKJV

B. Y’shua Heals a Centurion’s Servant

(1) A Man Under Authority

(a) Such great faith...

1. “Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, “**Lord**, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” And Jesus said to him, “**I will come and heal him.**” The centurion answered and said, “**Lord, I am not worthy** that You should come under my roof. **But only speak** a word, and my servant will be healed. For **I also am a man under authority**, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” **When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!** And I say to you that **many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.** But the **sons of the kingdom** will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be

weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Then Jesus said to the centurion, **“Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.”** And his servant was healed that same hour.” Matthew 8:5-13 NKJV

- a) A Roman officer in command of 100 soldiers addresses Y’shua as “Lord” and tells Him about his servant who is “paralyzed and dreadfully tormented.”
- b) Y’shua immediately says that He, “will come and heal him.”
- c) The officer sees Y’shua’s offer as sure thing, comparing Y’shua’s authority over this sickness to how utterly predicable it is that every man under his own authority obeys any of his commands instantly.
- d) Yet, he feels unworthy for Y’shua to enter his home (presumably because he is a pagan Roman).
- e) He KNOWS that Y’shua does not even need to come to his home; all He needs to do is speak it and his servant will be healed.
- f) Y’shua marveled at his level of faith, a faith greater than any in Israel!

g) Y'shua dismisses the officer telling him that as was his faith so goes his request, and his servant was healed that same hour.

(2) The Bigger Underlying Message

(a) Israel (the sons) will reject the Messiah and the Gentiles will come to the faith!

1. ""And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; **For the Gentiles shall seek Him**, And His resting place shall be glorious."" Isaiah 11:10 NKJV

2. ""I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, **As a light to the Gentiles**, To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house." Isaiah 42:6-7 NKJV

3. "Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles**, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' "" Isaiah 49:6 NKJV

4. ““For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that **I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory.** I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and Tubal and Javan, **to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles.**” Isaiah 66:18-19 NKJV

a) It should be obvious that the faith of Israel was meant to be evangelical. Y’shua knew that! The Jews knew that!

1) ““Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte,** and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.”
Matthew 23:15 NKJV

5. Y’shua will also elaborate on this in the parable of the Wedding Feast in Matthew 22:1-14. (Details later in Section 3: Excuses and Reasons)

a) Y’shua connects this moment to the prophecy that Gentiles will come into the the kingdom, even while many natural born Israelites reject it!

- 1) ““The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and **they [Israel] were not willing to come.**” Matthew 22:2-3 NKJV
 - 2) “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, **but those who were invited [Israel] were not worthy.** Therefore **go into the highways, and as many as you find [Gentiles], invite to the wedding.**’” Matthew 22:8-9 NKJV
6. Paul also elaborates on this later in Romans 9 & 11
- a) “But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, {32} What shall we say then? **That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness,** even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.” Romans 9:6, 30-32 NKJV
 - b) “I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to

provoke them to jealousy, **salvation has come to the Gentiles.** Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! {17} And if some of **the branches were broken off [the sons],** and you, being a wild olive tree [the Gentiles], were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, {20} Well said. Because of unbelief **they [the sons] were broken off,** and **you [the Gentiles] stand by faith.** Do not be haughty, but fear. {23} And they also, **if they [the sons] do not continue in unbelief,** will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For **if you [the Gentiles]** were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, **who are natural branches [the sons], be grafted into their own olive tree?** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the**

Gentiles has come in." Romans 11:11-12, 17, 20,
23-25 NKJV

C. Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed

(1) One touch

(a) Peter's mother-in-law was sick...

1. "Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. **So He touched her hand**, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them." Matthew 8:14-15 NKJV

a) Y'shua touched her hand and she was healed.

b) She immediately rises to served them.

D. Many Others Healed

(1) Prophecy Fulfilled

(a) Many who were demon-possessed and sick were healed

1. "When evening had come, **they brought to Him many** who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet**, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."" Matthew 8:16-17 NKJV

a) Isaiah prophesied: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

- 1) “Surely **He has borne our griefs** And **carried our sorrows**; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, **Smitten by God, and afflicted**. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”
Isaiah 53:4-5 NKJV

E. The Cost of Discipleship

(1) “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”

(a) Will you?

1. “And **when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart** to the other side. Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, **“Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”** And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but **the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**” Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, **let me first** go and bury my father.” **But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”**” Matthew 8:18-22 NKJV

- a) The healings attracted many many people.
- b) Notice that when the crowds gathered, Y’shua often departed to see who would follow— “*when*

Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart!”

- c) A certain scribe claimed he, “would follow Y’shua wherever He went.”
- d) And Y’shua warns him that it will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty. (See Section 3: Excuses and Reasons)
- e) One of His disciples wants to bury His father first and he is told to let the dead bury their own dead. (See Section 3: Excuses and Reasons)

F. The Wind and Waves Obey Y’shua

(1) “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”

(a) Where is your faith?

1. **“Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.** And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, **“Lord, save us! We are perishing!”** But He said to them, **“Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”** Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So **the men marveled, saying, “Who can this**

be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?””

Matthew 8:23-27 NKJV

- a) Y'shua gets in a boat and His disciples followed Him.
 - b) Suddenly a great storm stirs the sea and rocks the boat with “life threatening” waves.
 - c) Y'shua is fast asleep while His disciples panic. They wake Him afraid for their lives.
 - d) A standard admonition follows: “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”
 - e) He arose, rebuked the winds and the sea, and all became calm.
 - f) His disciples marveled, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”
 - g) I guess all the miracles they just witnessed were not shocking enough!
- (2) “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”
- (a) They should have known!
 1. “Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? **Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment?** Who has established all the

ends of the earth? **What is His name, and what is His Son's name, If you know?"** Proverbs 30:4 NKJV

2. "For behold, He who forms mountains, **And creates the wind**, Who declares to man what his thought is, And makes the morning darkness, Who treads the high places of the earth— The Lord God of hosts is His name." Amos 4:13 NKJV

G. Two Demon-Possessed Men Healed

(1) Even the demons believe and tremble!

(a) Demons and Pigs

1. "When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him **two demon-possessed men**, coming out of the tombs, **exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass** that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "**What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"** Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "**If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.**" And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, **they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently**

down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and **told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.** And behold, **the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart** from their region.” Matthew 8:28-34
NKJV

- a) They arrive on the other side of the Galilee and are immediately confronted with two violent demon-possessed men who stood in their way.
- b) Interestingly, the demons know who He is!
“Y’shua, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”
- c) The demons recognize Him!
 - 1) *“You believe that there is one God. You do well. **Even the demons believe—and tremble!**”* James 2:19 NKJV
- d) The demons beg Him that if He intends to dispossess them that He cast them into the herd of nearby swine, and He does.
- e) The whole herd of swine then rush violently off a cliff and perish in the water.

- f) The pig herders run to the city to report the demon-possessed-men-pig-incident.
- g) You'd think they'd be grateful for Him ridding the region of two violent demon-possessed men!
- h) But instead, the whole city came out to meet Y'shua and they begged Him to depart.
- i) I guess they loved their demons and pigs.

MATTHEW 9 DEBRIEF

2. ...that you may know the Son of Man!

A. Y'shua Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

(1) "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

(a) The Power to Forgive Sins...

1. "So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, **they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed.** When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "**Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.**" And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "**This Man blasphemes!**" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "**Why do you think evil in your hearts?** For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know

that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.” Matthew 9:1-8 NKJV

- a) Y’shua gets back into the boat and crosses over to His own city (back to Capernaum).
- b) They bring Him a paralytic man lying on a bed.
- c) When Jesus sees their faith, He says to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”
- d) And at once some of the scribes think to themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”
- e) Jesus knows their thoughts, and says, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’?”
- f) A man’s heart reveals a man’s deep inner thoughts
 - 1) *“As in water face reflects face, **So a man’s heart reveals the man.**”* Proverbs 27:19 NKJV
 - 2) *“...For **out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**”* Luke 6:45 NKJV

3) “For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**” Matthew 6:21 NKJV

g) He wanted to make the point that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins—so He tells the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” And he does!

h) When the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.”

i) The Power to Forgive Sins is later passed on to his disciples (that could be you!)...

1) “**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.**” John 20:23 NKJV

(2) Lukes Version in (Luke 5:17-26) includes some other fabulous details...

(a) The level of faith they had that he would be healed...

“they did not simply bring to Him a paralytic lying on a bed...”

1. *“And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, **they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling** into the midst before Jesus.”* Luke 5:19 NKJV

(b) Luke shows us another detail of what the Pharisees (not just scribes) were thinking...

1. *“And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? **Who can forgive sins but God alone?”** But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts?” Luke 5:21-22 NKJV*

(3) More Prophecy in Action

(a) Then the lame shall leap like a deer...

1. *“Strengthen the weak hands, **And make firm the feeble knees.** Say to those who are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. **Then the lame shall leap like a deer,** And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.”*

Isaiah 35:3-6 NKJV

B. Matthew the Tax Collector

(1) “Follow Me.”

(a) Would you give up everything?

1. “As Jesus passed on from there, **He saw a man named Matthew** sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, **“Follow Me.”** So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, **many tax collectors and sinners** came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, **“Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”** When Jesus heard that, He said to them, **“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”**” Matthew 9:9-13 NKJV

- a) Y’shua calls Matthew (this Gospel writer).
- b) Soon after, He gathers for a meal with many tax collectors and sinners and His disciples.
- c) The Pharisees question His sinful associations. Y’shua famously replies... “Those who are well have no need of a physician, those who are sick do!” Go and learn what this means: (Hosea 6:6)
 - 1) “I desire mercy and not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

d) Y'shua exposes that the Pharisees don't have the knowledge of God by referring to Hosea!

1) *"For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the **knowledge of God** more than burnt offerings."*

Hosea 6:6 NKJV

C. Y'shua Questioned about Fasting

(1) "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"

(a) Because it is not yet time to mourn!

1. "Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, **"Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"** And Jesus said to them, **"Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?** But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. **No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment;** for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. **Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins,** or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But **they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.**" Matthew 9:14-17 NKJV

- a) The disciples of John (the Baptizer) ask, “Why they and the Pharisees fast often, but His disciples don’t?”
- b) Y’shua identifies Himself as the bridegroom and equates fasting with mourning.
- c) As long as the bridegroom is with them—there is no need to mourn.
- d) Hint: if He is the bridegroom, they (we) are the bride. This connects this moment back to Mt. Sinai when Yahweh offered his hand in marriage (read Exodus 19)...
 - a) **[Will you marry Me?]** *“Now therefore, **if you will** indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, **then you shall be** a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. **And you shall be** to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. **[We do!] Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.”** So Moses*

brought back the words of the people to the Lord.” Exodus 19:5-8 NKJV

- e) One day the bridegroom will be gone, and then you can fast.
- f) Garments & Wineskins (old paradigms can't contain or explain the new revelation of Christ)
 - 1) You can't patch an old garment with new cloth. It will never stay put. If you try it will make things worse.
 - 2) You can't put new wine into old dry wineskins. As it ferments and expands, the inflexible old wineskins will not be able to stretch (adapt) and will break.
- g) The same is true with you. The old you could not contain all that God has for you.
- h) See [New Wineskins II](#) for an extensive teaching on this topic.
- i) You must be a new creature with a new habitation if you wish to contain new revelation (you must have the knowledge of God—Hosea 6:6!)
 - 1) “For in this we groan, earnestly **desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from**

heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.” II Corinthians 5:2-3 NKJV

- 2) “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”** II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

D. A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

(1) “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.”

(a) One Touch of and from the Master...

1. “While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, **“My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.”** So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples. And **suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.** For she said to herself, **“If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.”** But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, **“Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.”** And the woman was made well from that hour. When Jesus came into the ruler’s house, and saw the flute

players and the noisy crowd wailing, He said to them, **“Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.”** And **they ridiculed Him.** But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and **took her by the hand,** and the girl arose. And the report of this went out into all that land.” Matthew 9:18-26 NKJV

- a) Matthew records his version of the woman with the issue of blood and the raising of Jairus’ daughter.
- b) Jairus (the ruler of the synagogue) came and worshiped Him, saying, “His daughter had just died, but to come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.”
- c) On His way to Jairus’ house, a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. (See [The Reason](#) for an entire teaching on this subject.)
- d) She is immediately healed: “Daughter; your faith has made you well.”
- e) Then He heads to Jairus’ house and a noisy crowd is mourning his daughter who has died already.

- f) Y'shua famously says, "The girl is not dead, but sleeping." And He is ridiculed by those in the house.
- g) The crowd is sent out of the house and He proceeds to raise the twelve year old girl from the dead.
 - 1) It is not a coincidence that both miracles are related to 12 years. (See [The Reason](#) for details.)
- h) The report of the dead rising goes into all that land.
 - 1) Luke adds some fabulous details to this same narrative in Luke 8:40-56. (See Section 3: Excuses and Reasons)

E. Two Blind Men Healed

- (1) "Son of David, have mercy on us!"
 - (a) Do you believe?
 - 1. "When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, **"Son of David, have mercy on us!"** And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, **"Do you believe that I am able to do this?"** **They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."** Then He touched their eyes, saying, **"According to your faith let it be to you."** And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly

warned them, saying, **“See that no one knows it.”**
But when they had departed, they **spread the news about Him in all that country.**” Matthew 9:27-31
NKJV

- a) Two blind men followed Y’shua asking for mercy.
- b) They knew He was the Messiah as they called Him the, “Son of David.”
- c) Y’shua asks them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They say, “Yes, Lord.”
- d) He touched their eyes, “According to your faith let it be to you.” (And their eyes were opened.)
- e) They are warned not to share their miracle, but they spread the news **about Him** to the whole region.

(2) “Son of David.”

(a) Solomon and Beyond...

1. **““When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of**

men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.**"

' "" II Samuel 7:12-16 NKJV

- a) David is promised a kingdom without end through his seed—Messiah "Son of David!"
2. "For **unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;** And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace **There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,** To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJV
 - a) There will be no end, to the throne of David and His kingdom—Messiah "Son of David!"

F. A Mute Man Speaks

- (1) "It was never seen like this in Israel!"
 - (a) Yet you still don't see it!

1. “As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And **when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke.** And the multitudes marveled, saying, **“It was never seen like this in Israel!”** But the Pharisees said, **“He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.”**” Matthew 9:32-34 NKJV
 - a) A mute and demon-possessed man is brought for healing and deliverance.
 - b) When the demon is cast out, he speaks and the multitudes are marveled, “It was never seen like this in Israel!”
 - c) But, the Pharisees accuse Y’shua of partnering with Satan, by casting out demons by Satan’s authority.

G. The harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few

- (1) The people are worn out and scattered, because they have no shepherd!
 - (a) The harvest truly is plentiful...
 1. “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, **teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease** among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was **moved with compassion** for

them, because they were **weary and scattered**, like **sheep having no shepherd**. Then He said to His disciples, **“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”**”

Matthew 9:35-38 NKJV

- a) Y’shua ministered and taught all over the region...
 - 1) He taught in the synagogues.
 - 2) He preached about the gospel of the kingdom.
 - 3) He healed every type of sickness and disease.
- b) He had compassion on the multitudes because they were a tired and scattered people **with no shepherd**.
- c) The “religious leaders” of the day had neglected true shepherding and had become woeful hypocrites (See Matthew 23).
- d) He pointed out to His disciples that there are so many souls to harvest and so few ministers to do the harvesting.
- e) He tells His disciples to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out ministers into His harvest.
- f) In other words, be praying because I am about to send you!

(2) New Shepherds

(a) They are about to be sent (in Matthew 10)!

1. “But **go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel**. And as you go, **preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’**” Matthew 10:6-7 NKJV

a) Go preach the Gospel of the Kingdom like He did!

b) And go healing like He did... “*And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, **He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.***” Matthew 10:1 NKJV

(b) Ultimate Shepherds!

1. “**Shepherd the flock** of God which is among you, serving as **overseers**, not by **compulsion** but **willingly**, not for **dishonest gain** but **eagerly**; **nor as being Lords** over those entrusted to you, but **being examples to the flock**; and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” I Peter 5:2-4 NKJV

a) Be servant shepherds, willing leaders who happily do what they do for the benefit of others.

- b) Be excellent examples, unlike those who leave the people... *“weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”*
- (c) Those negligent shepherds will be removed and replaced as prophesied by Jeremiah!

1. **“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!”** says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: **“You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,”** says the Lord. **“But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them** who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the Lord.” Jeremiah 23:1-4 NKJV

- a) Do you see it now?
 - 1) **“Shepherd the flock..., serving as [servant leaders], not [being forced] but [because you want to], not for [your own benefits] but [excited to serve others]; nor as being [task**

masters] over those entrusted to you, but **being [Christlike] to the flock**; and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears **[again]...**" I Peter 5:2-4 NKJV

2) Note: Peter is referring to our assignment until the Chief Shepherd appears at His second coming because He already came as the Good Shepherd at His first coming. ***"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."*** John 10:11 NKJV

- b) The the religious leaders of the day had to be removed because of their neglectful shepherding.
- c) Will you be the type of shepherd who must be removed, or the new type of shepherd?
- d) Does it need to happen again? It seems so!

EXCUSES AND REASONS

3. It's Now or Never!

A. Options: Four Types of Soil

(1) "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." (Mat. 8:19)

(a) The Cost of Discipleship

1. "And **when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart** to the other side. Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, **"Teacher, I**

will follow You wherever You go. And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but **the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**” Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, **let me first** go and bury my father.” **But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”**” Matthew 8:18-22 NKJV

a) One call...Many Responses

- 1) Notice that when crowds gather Y’shua sometimes departs!
- 2) Who will follow?
- 3) Teacher, I will follow!
- 4) It will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty.
- 5) I’m coming, but let me go bury the dead first.

(2) One call...Many Responses (connected to sermon intro!)

(a) Read the Parable of the Sower/Soils (Mat. 13:1-9; 18-23)

1. Soil One—by the wayside: “When anyone **hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and *snatches away what was sown in his heart.*** This is he who received seed by the wayside.” Matthew 13:19 NKJV

- a) Those who convinced themselves that they really did choose to follow, only to come to realize that they never actually joined in the first place.
 - b) They are exposed as being completely unprepared and without true understanding when asked, “Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?”
 - c) Such a question leaves them speechless. If that is you, it will have a really ugly ending.
2. Soil Two—on stony places: “But **he who received the seed on stony places**, this is he who **hears the word and immediately receives it with joy**; yet he has **no root in himself**, but endures only for a while. For **when tribulation or persecution arises** because of the word, immediately **he stumbles.**” Matthew 13:20-21 NKJV
- a) Okay, let’s get started! But, here is what you can expect as one of My followers; it will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty. Still want to follow?
 - b) Fast track excuses—conceding quickly to wind-blown thinking.

- c) Oh, I did not realize it would be so hard! “Thank you, but no thank you.”
 - d) It’s a life of excuses that fuels the easy way around anything hard, rather than a life of reasons to leap over barriers; to empower knocking them down; or to simply exercise the patience necessary to wait in front of them, until they crumble before your faith.
3. Soil Three—among the thorns: “Now he who **received seed among the thorns** is he who **hears the word, and the cares of this world** and the **deceitfulness of riches choke the word**, and he becomes unfruitful.” Matthew 13:22 NKJV
- a) They do jump in and when it gets hard, that is when they change their minds.
 - b) And, as soon as it does not appear to be all sunshine and rainbows, too often the would-be follower reacts with some form of excuse: I’m coming, but let me go check my work schedule first; or let me get the approval of my wife; or let me calculate the current valuation of my stock portfolio; or let me evaluate the condition of my business ventures.

- c) The old life starts to look so good again.
 - d) As such, they return to their old ways and never look back.
4. Soil Four—on good ground: “But he who received **seed on the good ground** is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed **bears fruit** and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”” Matthew 13:23 NKJV
- a) Disciples cannot take the easy way out.
 - b) When obstacles block progress, disciples must take the high ground, choose the hard road.
 - c) In fact, Y’shua often separated Himself and moved to higher ground, or to the other side of the sea, or He delivered an impossible message, just to separate who would follow from those who would take the path of least resistance.
 - d) I guess the question remains, “Which type of ‘disciple’ are you?”
 - e) When He says, “Follow Me into a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty!” do you tell Him you will get back to Him after you check your schedule; that you might have some dead bodies to bury.

- f) Or do you say, “Lord, to whom else shall I go? You are the only One with the words of eternal life [John 6:68].”
- g) The only true disciple is the one who sees “zero” as a perfectly acceptable option!

B. Higher Ground; Hard to Follow; Excuses & Reasons!

(1) Separating from the Masses

(a) Higher Ground

1. “And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, **He gave a command to depart to the other side.**”

Matthew 8:18 NKJV

- a) Y’shua departed to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.
- b) He often moved on from the crowds, allowing certain natural barriers to separate those who would do whatever necessary to follow Him, from those who won’t.

(b) Hard to Follow

1. “Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, **“Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”** And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but **the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**”” Matthew 8:19-20 NKJV

a) It will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty.

b) Will you still follow?

(c) Excuses

1. "Then another of His disciples said to Him, **"Lord, let me first go and bury my father."** But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and **let the dead bury their own dead.**"" Matthew 8:21-22 NKJV

a) **The Excuse:** I have other things to do first, things already on my agenda, items previously placed on my to-do-list.

(d) Reasons

1. "Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, **she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him** and how she was healed immediately." Luke 8:47 NKJV

a) **The Reason:** I had faith I would be healed no matter how long it has been, or how hard the journey, or how tough it was to press through the crowd!

(2) Hard to Follow!

- (a) “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”
1. “Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily**, and follow Me. **For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?”
Luke 9:23-25 NKJV
- a) Do you wish to follow Christ?
 - b) If you do, you must deny yourself and sacrifice daily!
 - c) You must be willing to lose your life!
- (b) “Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”
1. “Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, “**If anyone comes to Me and does not hate** his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, **and his own life** also, he **cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross** and come after Me **cannot be My disciple.** For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and **count the cost**, whether

he has enough to finish it— lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'? Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, **whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.** "Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Luke 14:25-35 NKJV

- a) Do you wish to be a disciple of Christ?
 - b) If you do, then you must count the cost.
 - c) You must be willing to surrender everything!
- (c) "Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor."
1. Mark: one thing you lack... "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "**One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;**

and **come, take up the cross, and follow Me.**" But he was sad at this word, and **went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**" Mark 10:21-22 NKJV

2. Luke: distribute to the poor... "So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, **"You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**" But when he heard this, he **became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.**" Luke 18:22-23 NKJV

3. Matthew: if you want to be perfect... "Jesus said to him, **"If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**" But when the young man heard that saying, **he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**" Matthew 19:21-22 NKJV

- a) Do you want to imitate Christ?
- b) If you do you must be willing to rid yourself of every worldly possession!

(3) A journey through John 6...

(a) Higher Ground

1. “After these things Jesus **went over the Sea of Galilee**, which is the Sea of Tiberias. **Then a great multitude followed Him**, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus **went up on the mountain**, and there He sat with His disciples.” John 6:1-3 NKJV
 - a) Y’shua had just been in Jerusalem in John 5 where He healed the paralytic (of 38 years) at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath and faced persecution by the Jewish leadership.
 - b) He departs Jerusalem after His famous rebuke of those who sought to condemn Him...
 - 1) *“Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”* John 5:45-47 NKJV
 - c) As He does often, he departs for higher ground right before the epic feeding of the 5000.
- (b) Higher Ground
 1. “Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king,

He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, **and went over the sea toward Capernaum.** And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them.” John 6:15-17 NKJV

- a) After the feeding of the 5000, Y’shua again departs to higher ground.
- b) His disciples get in their boat and head to Capernaum to look for Him and that is when we have the moment Y’shua walks on water.

(c) Seeking Him on Higher Ground

1. “On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, **and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples,** but His disciples had gone away alone— however, other boats came from Tiberias, [to a spot] near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks— when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor **His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him,**

“Rabbi, when did You come here?”” John 6:22-25

NKJV

- a) Everyone is in a frenzy looking for Y’shua.
 - b) The people in the Bethsaida region who witnessed the loaves and fishes miracle, as well as some from Tiberias, are looking for Him.
 - c) His disciples had sailed over to Capernaum alone so the people had no idea that Y’shua “walked over!”
 - d) So, they and those who had just come from Tiberias also sailed over to Capernaum to find Him.
 - e) This is what it SHOULD be like... do what is needed and go wherever you must to find Him!
 - f) But then Y’shua delivers a message that will begin to separate true disciples from those who will turn away when things get tough!
- (d) “Rabbi, when did You come here?” (One of those Truly, Truly moments! (See: [Six Degrees of Separation](#)))
1. “Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly [truly, truly], **I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.** Do not labor for the food which

perishes, **but for the food which endures to everlasting life**, which the Son of Man will give you, because God **the Father has set His seal on Him.**"

Then they said to Him, **"What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"** Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you **believe in Him whom He sent.**" Therefore they said to Him, **"What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?"**

Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**" Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." And Jesus said to them, **"I am the bread of life.** He who comes to Me shall **never hunger**, and he who believes in Me shall **never thirst**. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me**, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down

from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, **that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing**, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may **have everlasting life**; and I will raise him up at the last day.”” John 6:26-40 NKJV

- a) Y’shua drops a bomb on the people!
 - b) They ask... *“What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?”*
 - c) Moses gave you manna. That was NOT bread from heaven. I am the bread from heaven! That was NOT the bread of life. I am the bread of life!
 - d) You must believe in me for everlasting life!
 - e) And He knows that many will not believe—only those His Father has given to Him.
- (e) From Hard to Follow to HARD to follow (strap in, He is about to upend everything).
1. “The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, **“I am the bread which came down from heaven.”** And they said, **“Is not this Jesus, the son of**

Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;** and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. **I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.**"

The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "**How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?**"

Then Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and**

drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—**not as your fathers ate** the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.” These things He said in the synagogue as **He taught in Capernaum.**” John 6:41-59 NKJV

- a) This guy is saying He’s the bread of life. Isn’t this Jesus, Joseph’s boy. We actually know His mother!
- b) Then Y’shua drops the bomb!
 - 1) Your ancestors all ate the manna in the wilderness and guess what? They are all dead!
 - 2) You have the option to eat the bread of life and live.
 - 3) Here’s how it works. My body is the bread and My blood is the drink.
 - 4) Eat and drink and you will live. Don’t and you will die like your ancestors!

- 5) Their oblivious shock... "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"
- 6) And this was not a private claim... these things He said in the synagogue in Capernaum.
- (f) "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"
1. "Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, **"This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"** When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, **"Does this offend you?** What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.** The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. **But there are some of you who do not believe."** **For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe,** and who would betray Him. And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that **no one can come to Me unless** it has been granted to him by My Father." **From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.** John 6:60-66 NKJV
- a) Are you offended by this radical claim?

- b) It's expected that many will walk away at this grand moment of separation!
- c) And that is precisely what happens... *"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more."*
- d) Will you walk away?

C. The Excuses

(1) Excuses separate true-disciples from pretend-disciples

(a) The Great Banquet—An exercise in separation...

1. "Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, **"Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!"** Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, **'Come, for all things are now ready.'** But they all with one accord began to make excuses. **The first said to him,** 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' **And another said,** 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' **Still another said,** 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported

these things to his master. **Then the master of the house, being angry,** said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. **For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.**' "" Luke 14:15-24 NKJV

- a) "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" (The Bread of Life!)
- b) The Master says, "Come eat bread!" but all He gets is excuses... *"I ask you to have me excused."*
 - 1) I bought land and must go develop it!
 - 2) I bought new manufacturing equipment and I need to start ramping up production!
 - 3) I got married and I have obligations at home!
 - 4) And...The dog ate my homework!
- c) The Master simply invites others to come.
 - 1) None of those originally invited shall eat the bread (of life!).

2) Just like... *“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”* John 6:66

3) It’s an exercise in separation!

(b) The Wedding Feast—An exercise in separation...

1. “And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were **invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.**

Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. **Come to the wedding.”**’ **But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.**

But when the king heard about it, he was furious.

And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘**The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.** Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the

wedding.’ **So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good.** And the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, **he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.** So he said to him, ‘**Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’** **And he was speechless.** Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ **“For many are called, but few are chosen.”**” Matthew 22:1-14 NKJV

- a) The king invites guests to his son’s wedding feast, but those invited are not willing to come...
- b) He sends out servants (evangelists) multiples times to gather guests, but they are met with resistance (they don’t take the invitation seriously):
 - 1) One is too busy with his family business...
 - 2) One is too busy with his corporate responsibilities...
 - 3) Others are just aggravated and convicted by the invitation so they “kill” the messengers!

- 4) The king is furious and he destroys those who harmed his servants.
- c) Since the original invitees are not worthy, He invites people from all over, some good, some not so good.
 - 1) He will just sort them out at the feast! How?
 - 2) He will simply see if they are wearing the proper attire (are they clothed in righteousness?)
 - 3) If not, He will toss them out! *“For many are called, but few are chosen.”*
 - 4) It’s an exercise in separation!

D. The Reasons

(1) Reasons separate true-disciples from pretend-disciples

(a) One Touch—An exercise in separation...

1. “So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him. And behold, there came **a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue.** And he fell down at Jesus’ feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only **daughter about twelve years of age,** and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, **who had spent all her**

livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' " But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He

said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping."
And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.
But He put them all outside, **took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately.** And He **commanded that she be given something to eat.** And her parents were astonished, but He **charged them to tell no one what had happened.**" Luke 8:40-56 NKJV
(also Mark 5:21-43)

- a) No Excuses: The reason she touched Him!
 - 1) She declared to Him in the presence of all the people **the reason she had touched** Him and how she was healed immediately.
 - 2) She had unwavering faith that one touch of His garment would heal her 12 years of suffering, so much faith that she dared push through the crowd in her "unclean state," not only "illegally" touching all those around her, but willing to touch the Messiah Himself (and risk "defiling" Him!)
 - 3) Yes! That much faith! "*Daughter, your faith has made you well."

4) *Y'shua calls her daughter, presumably because she had been shunned from her family for 12 years (as her sickness was likely viewed as a curse) and He has now welcomed her into new life in her new family!

b) No Excuses: The reason He touched her!

1) Jairus also had unwavering faith.

2) His *daughter has died suddenly (also after 12 years) and he is certain that one touch from Y'shua will restore her to life. (Matthew's version: *"Come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."*)

3) Y'shua agrees: *"Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."*

4) He enters the house and raises the "daughter" into new life with just one touch.

c) Please see [The Reason](#) for additional teachings about this incident.

(b) One Hope—An exercise in separation...

1. **"But sanctify** the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you **a reason for the hope that is in you**, with meekness and fear; {16} having a good conscience, that when

they defame you as evildoers, **those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.**" I Peter 3:15-17 NKJV

- a) Be separated unto Yahweh in you hearts.
- b) Be ready to share The Reason you have hope!
- c) Stay and do so, even when it is in the midst of severe difficulties and persecution.

(2) The Reason—Even when your life is on the line!

(a) "Let us go to Judea again." (Even though the last time it was very dangerous!)

1. "Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He

was. Then after this He said to the disciples, **“Let us go to Judea again.”**” John 11:1-7 NKJV

- a) Lazarus is sick and near death.
- b) Y’shua waits until the proper time and then states His intention to go handle the matter.

(b) “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

1. “The disciples said to Him, **“Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?”**

Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.” Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.” However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.” Then **Thomas**, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, **“Let us**

also go, that we may die with Him.”” John 11:8-16

NKJV

- a) The last time You were in that area, they wanted to kill You!
 - b) Nevertheless, Y’shua is going anyway. Who will follow?
 - c) Thomas echoes the words that reveal the heart of all true disciples... *“Let us also go, **that we may die with Him.**”*
 - d) Are you willing? Are you making excuses, or do you have a reason?
- (c) It seems like an impossible choice, but... “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”
1. “And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, **“How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!** For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” But He said, **“The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”** Then Peter said, “See, we have left all and followed You.” So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, **there is no one who has left**

house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”” Luke 18:24-30 NKJV

- a) After the rich young ruler had become sorrowful and walked away...vv. 18-23
- b) How hard it is to make these choices...
- c) Sure it's impossible if you trust in your own strength, but with God it is possible!
- d) And in the end, when you surrender your life for the sake of the kingdom... your reward, both now and into eternity, will be many fold!

(d) Back to John 6: FINAL QUESTION!

1. “Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, **“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.””** John 6:67-69 NKJV

- a) These are hard sayings (all this eat My flesh and drink My blood stuff!)
- b) And most would-be disciples have opted out!
- c) What about you?

- d) "Do you also want to go away?"
- e) Do you want to go take care of your own life instead?
- f) Do you want to go bury the dead?
- g) I pray you choose like Peter did, "Where could I possibly go? You are the ONLY ONE with the words of eternal life. And I am a true disciple of the Messiah, the Son of the living God!"

Summary: MATTHEW 8 DEBRIEF

1. ...as a testimony to them!

A. Y'shua Cleanses a Leper

(1) The LAW attached to the FAITH!

(a) Immediately after the Sermon on the Mount...

1. A leper worships Y'shua as He comes down from the mountain where He delivered the Sermon on the Mount, and says, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."
2. Y'shua touches him, and says, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy is cleansed.
3. Y'shua tells him, "See that you tell no one; but **go your way, show yourself to the priest**, and offer the gift **that Moses commanded**, as a testimony to them."

- (2) This should now make more sense than ever!
 - (a) Y'shua came to fulfill the law!
 - (b) The Law Concerning Leprosy (Read Leviticus 13-14)
 - 1. This is precisely what Y'shua told the leper to do, ***“go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”***

B. Y'shua Heals a Centurion's Servant

- (1) A Man Under Authority
 - (a) Such great faith...
 - 1. A Roman officer in command of 100 soldiers addresses Y'shua as “Lord” and tells Him about his servant who is “paralyzed and dreadfully tormented.”
 - 2. Y'shua immediately says that He, “will come and heal him.”
 - 3. The officer sees Y'shua's offer as sure thing, comparing Y'shua's authority over this sickness to how utterly predicable it is that every man under his own authority obeys any of his commands instantly.
 - 4. Yet, he feels unworthy for Y'shua to enter his home (presumably because he is a pagan Roman).
 - 5. He KNOWS that Y'shua does not even need to come to his home; all He needs to do is speak it and his servant will be healed.

6. Y'shua marveled at his level of faith, a faith greater than any in Israel!
7. Y'shua dismisses the officer telling him that as was his faith so goes his request, and his servant was healed that same hour.

(2) The Bigger Underlying Message

- (a) Israel (the sons) will reject the Messiah and the Gentiles will come to the faith!
 1. It should be obvious that the faith of Israel was meant to be evangelical. Y'shua knew that! The Jews knew that!
 2. Y'shua will also elaborate on this in the parable of the Wedding Feast in Matthew 22:1-14.
 3. Y'shua connects this moment to the prophecy that Gentiles will come into the the kingdom, even while many natural born Israelites reject it!
 4. Paul also elaborates on this later in Romans 9 & 11

C. Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed

(1) One touch

- (a) Peter's mother-in-law was sick...
 1. Y'shua touched her hand and she was healed.
 2. She immediately rises to served them.

D. Many Others Healed

(1) Prophecy Fulfilled

(a) Many who were demon-possessed and sick were healed

1. Isaiah prophesied: “He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.”

E. The Cost of Discipleship

(1) “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”

(a) Will you?

1. The healings attracted many many people.
2. Notice that when the crowds gathered, Y’shua often departed to see who would follow— “*when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart!”*
3. A certain scribe claimed he, “would follow Y’shua wherever He went.”
4. And Y’shua warns him that it will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty. (See Section 3: Excuses and Reasons)
5. One of His disciples wants to bury His father first and he is told to let the dead bury their own dead. (See Section 3: Excuses and Reasons)

F. The Wind and Waves Obey Y’shua

(1) “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”

(a) Where is your faith?

1. Y'shua gets in a boat and His disciples followed Him.
 2. Suddenly a great storm stirs the sea and rocks the boat with "life threatening" waves.
 3. Y'shua is fast asleep while His disciples panic. They wake Him afraid for their lives.
 4. A standard admonition follows: "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?"
 5. He arose, rebuked the winds and the sea, and all became calm.
 6. His disciples marveled, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"
 7. I guess all the miracles they just witnessed were not shocking enough!
- (2) "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"
- (a) They should have known!

G. Two Demon-Possessed Men Healed

- (1) Even the demons believe and tremble!
 - (a) Demons and Pigs
 1. They arrive on the other side of the Galilee and are immediately confronted with two violent demon-possessed men who stood in their way.

2. Interestingly, the demons know who He is! “Y’shua, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”
3. The demons recognize Him!
4. The demons beg Him that if He intends to dispossess them that He cast them into the herd of nearby swine, and He does.
5. The whole herd of swine then rush violently off a cliff and perish in the water.
6. The pig herders run to the city to report the demon-possessed-men-pig-incident.
7. You’d think they’d be grateful for Him ridding the region of two violent demon-possessed men!
8. But instead, the whole city came out to meet Y’shua and they begged Him to depart.
9. I guess they loved their demons and pigs.

Summary: MATTHEW 9 DEBRIEF

2. ...that you may know the Son of Man!

A. Y’shua Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

- (1) “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”
 - (a) The Power to Forgive Sins...

1. Y'shua gets back into the boat and crosses over to His own city (back to Capernaum).
 2. They bring Him a paralytic man lying on a bed.
 3. When Jesus sees their faith, He says to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."
 4. And at once some of the scribes think to themselves, "This Man blasphemes!"
 5. Jesus knows their thoughts, and says, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?"
 6. A man's heart reveals a man's deep inner thoughts
 7. He wanted to make the point that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins—so He tells the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he does!
 8. When the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men."
 9. The Power to Forgive Sins is later passed on to his disciples (that could be you!)...
- (2) Lukes Version in (Luke 5:17-26) includes some other fabulous details...

- (a) The level of faith they that he would be healed...*“they did not simply bring to Him a paralytic lying on a bed...” they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling...*
 - (b) Luke shows us another detail of what the Pharisees (not just scribes) were thinking...***Who can forgive sins but God alone?”***
- (3) More Prophecy in Action
- (a) Then the lame shall leap like a deer...

B. Matthew the Tax Collector

- (1) “Follow Me.”
 - (a) Would you give up everything?
 1. Y’shua calls Matthew (this Gospel writer).
 2. Soon after, He gathers for a meal with many tax collectors and sinners and His disciples.
 3. The Pharisees question His sinful associations. Y’shua famously replies... “Those who are well have no need of a physician, those who are sick do!” Go and learn what this means: (Hosea 6:6)
 4. “I desire mercy and not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”
 5. Y’shua exposes that the Pharisees don’t have the knowledge of God by referring to Hosea!

C. Y'shua Questioned about Fasting

- (1) "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"
 - (a) Because it is not yet time to mourn!
 1. The disciples of John (the Baptizer) ask, "Why they and the Pharisees fast often, but His disciples don't?"
 2. Y'shua identifies Himself as the bridegroom and equates fasting with mourning.
 3. As long as the bridegroom is with them—there is no need to mourn.
 4. Hint: if He is the bridegroom, they (we) are the bride. This connects this moment back to Mt. Sinai when Yahweh offered his hand in marriage (read Exodus 19)...
 5. One day the bridegroom will be gone, and then you can fast.
 6. Garments & Wineskins (old paradigms can't contain or explain the new revelation of Christ)
 7. You can't patch an old garment with new cloth. It will never stay put. If you try it will make things worse.
 8. You can't put new wine into old dry wineskins. As it ferments and expands, the inflexible old wineskins will not be able to stretch (adapt) and will break.

9. The same is true with you. The old you could not contain all that God has for you.
10. See [New Wineskins II](#) for an extensive teaching on this topic.
11. You must be a new creature with a new habitation if you wish to contain new revelation (you must have the knowledge of God—Hosea 6:6!)

D. A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

- (1) “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.”
 - (a) One Touch of and from the Master...
 1. Matthew records his version of the woman with the issue of blood and the raising of Jairus’ daughter.
 2. Jairus (the ruler of the synagogue) came and worshiped Him, saying, “His daughter had just died, but to come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.”
 3. On His way to Jairus’ house, a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. (See [The Reason](#) for an entire teaching on this subject.)
 4. She is immediately healed: “Daughter; your faith has made you well.”

5. Then He heads to Jairus' house and a noisy crowd is mourning his daughter who has died already.
6. Y'shua famously says, "The girl is not dead, but sleeping." And He is ridiculed by those in the house.
7. The crowd is sent out of the house and He proceeds to raise the twelve year old girl from the dead.
8. It is not a coincidence that both miracles are related to 12 years. (See [The Reason](#) for details.)
9. The report of the dead rising goes into all that land.
10. Luke adds some fabulous details to this same narrative in Luke 8:40-56. (See Section 3: Excuses and Reasons)

E. Two Blind Men Healed

- (1) "Son of David, have mercy on us!"
 - (a) Do you believe?
 1. Two blind men followed Y'shua asking for mercy.
 2. They knew He was the Messiah as they called Him the, "Son of David."
 3. Y'shua asks them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They say, "Yes, Lord."
 4. He touched their eyes, "According to your faith let it be to you." (And their eyes were opened.)

5. They are warned not to share their miracle, but they spread the news **about Him** to the whole region.

(2) “Son of David.”

(a) Solomon and Beyond...

1. David is promised a kingdom without end through his seed—Messiah “Son of David!”
2. There will be no end, to the throne of David and His kingdom—Messiah “Son of David!”

F. A Mute Man Speaks

(1) “It was never seen like this in Israel!”

(a) Yet you still don’t see it!

1. A mute and demon-possessed man is brought for healing and deliverance.
2. When the demon is cast out, he speaks and the multitudes are marveled, “It was never seen like this in Israel!”
3. But, the Pharisees accuse Y’shua of partnering with Satan, by casting out demons by Satan’s authority.

G. The harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few

(1) The people are worn out and scattered, because they have no shepherd!

(a) The harvest truly is plentiful...

1. Y’shua ministered and taught all over the region...

- 1) He taught in the synagogues.
- 2) He preached about the gospel of the kingdom.
- 3) He healed every type of sickness and disease.
2. He had compassion on the multitudes because they were a tired and scattered people **with no shepherd**.
3. The “religious leaders” of the day had neglected true shepherding and had become woeful hypocrites (See Matthew 23).
4. He pointed out to His disciples that there are so many souls to harvest and so few ministers to do the harvesting.
5. He tells His disciples to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out ministers into His harvest.
6. In other words, be praying because I am about to send you!

(2) New Shepherds

(a) They are about to be sent (in Matthew 10)!

1. Go preach the Gospel of the Kingdom like He did!
2. And go healing like He did...

(b) Ultimate Shepherds!

1. Be servant shepherds, willing leaders who happily do what they do for the benefit of others.

2. Be excellent examples, unlike those who leave the people... *“weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”*
- (c) Those negligent shepherds will be removed and replaced as prophesied by Jeremiah!
1. Do you see it now? **Shepherd the flock...**, serving as **[servant leaders]**, not **[being forced]** but **[because you want to]**, not for **[your own benefits]** but **[excited to serve others]**; nor as being **[task masters]** over those entrusted to you, but being **[Christlike] to the flock**; and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears **[again]...**
 2. Note: Peter is referring to our assignment until the Chief Shepherd appears at His second coming because He already came as the Good Shepherd at His first coming.
 3. The the religious leaders of the day had to be removed because of their neglectful shepherding.
 4. Will you be the type of shepherd who must be removed, or the new type of shepherd?
 5. Does it need to happen again? It seems so!

Summary: EXCUSES AND REASONS

3. It's Now or Never!

A. Options: Four Types of Soil

(1) "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." (Mat. 8:19)

(a) The Cost of Discipleship

1. One call...Many Responses

1) Notice that when crowds gather Y'shua sometimes departs!

2) Who will follow?

3) Teacher, I will follow!

4) It will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty.

5) I'm coming, but let me go bury the dead first.

(2) One call...Many Responses (connected to sermon intro!)

(a) Read the Parable of the Sower/Soils (Mat. 13:1-9; 18-23)

1. Soil One—by the wayside:

a) Those who convinced themselves that they really did choose to follow, only to come to realize that they never actually joined in the first place.

b) They are exposed as being completely unprepared and without true understanding when asked, "Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?"

c) Such a question leaves them speechless. If that is you, it will have a really ugly ending.

2. Soil Two—on stony places:

a) Okay, let's get started! But, here is what you can expect as one of My followers; it will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty. Still want to follow?

b) Fast track excuses—conceding quickly to wind-blown thinking.

c) Oh, I did not realize it would be so hard! “Thank you, but no thank you.”

d) It's a life of excuses that fuels the easy way around anything hard, rather than a life of reasons to leap over barriers; to empower knocking them down; or to simply exercise the patience necessary to wait in front of them, until they crumble before your faith.

3. Soil Three—among the thorns:

a) They do jump in and when it gets hard, that is when they change their minds.

b) And, as soon as it does not appear to be all sunshine and rainbows, too often the would-be follower reacts with some form of excuse: I'm

coming, but let me go check my work schedule first; or let me get the approval of my wife; or let me calculate the current valuation of my stock portfolio; or let me evaluate the condition of my business ventures.

- c) The old life starts to look so good again.
- d) As such, they return to their old ways and never look back.

4. Soil Four—on good ground:

- a) Disciples cannot take the easy way out.
- b) When obstacles block progress, disciples must take the high ground, choose the hard road.
- c) In fact, Y'shua often separated Himself and moved to higher ground, or to the other side of the sea, or He delivered an impossible message, just to separate who would follow from those who would take the path of least resistance.
- d) I guess the question remains, "Which type of 'disciple' are you?"
- e) When He says, "Follow Me into a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty!" do you tell Him you will get back to

Him after you check your schedule; that you might have some dead bodies to bury.

- f) Or do you say, "Lord, to whom else shall I go? You are the only One with the words of eternal life [John 6:68]."
- g) The only true disciple is the one who sees "zero" as a perfectly acceptable option!

B. Higher Ground; Hard to Follow; Excuses & Reasons!

(1) Separating from the Masses

(a) Higher Ground

1. Y'shua departed to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.
2. He often moved on from the crowds, allowing certain natural barriers to separate those who would do whatever necessary to follow Him, from those who won't.

(b) Hard to Follow

1. It will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty.
2. Will you still follow?

(c) Excuses

1. **The Excuse:** I have other things to do first, things already on my agenda, items previously placed on my to-do-list.

(d) Reasons

1. **The Reason:** I had faith I would be healed no matter how long it has been, or how hard the journey, or how tough it was to press through the crowd!

(2) Hard to Follow!

- (a) “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

1. Do you wish to follow Christ?
2. If you do, you must deny yourself and sacrifice daily!
3. You must be willing to lose your life!

- (b) “Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

1. Do you wish to be a disciple of Christ?
2. If you do, then you must count the cost.
3. You must be willing to surrender everything!

- (c) “Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor.”

1. Do you want to imitate Christ?
2. If you do you must be willing to rid yourself of every worldly possession!

(3) A journey through John 6...

(a) Higher Ground

1. Y'shua had just been in Jerusalem in John 5 where He healed the paralytic (of 38 years) at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath and faced persecution by the Jewish leadership.
2. He departs Jerusalem after His famous rebuke of those who sought to condemn Him...
3. As He does often, he departs for higher ground right before the epic feeding of the 5000.

(b) Higher Ground

1. After the feeding of the 5000, Y'shua again departs to higher ground.
2. His disciples get in their boat and head to Capernaum to look for Him and that is when we have the moment Y'shua walks on water.

(c) Seeking Him on Higher Ground

1. Everyone is in a frenzy looking for Y'shua.
2. The people in the Bethsaida region who witnessed the loaves and fishes miracle, as well as some from Tiberias, are looking for Him.
3. His disciples had sailed over to Capernaum alone so the people had no idea that Y'shua "walked over!"

4. So, they and those who had just come from Tiberias also sailed over to Capernaum to find Him.
 5. This is what it SHOULD be like... do what is needed and go wherever you must to find Him!
 6. But then Y'shua delivers a message that will begin to separate true disciples from those who will turn away when things get tough!
- (d) "Rabbi, when did You come here?" (One of those Truly, Truly moments! (See: [Six Degrees of Separation](#)))
1. Y'shua drops a bomb on the people!
 2. They ask... *"What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?"*
 3. Moses gave you manna. That was NOT bread from heaven. I am the bread from heaven! That was NOT the bread of life. I am the bread of life!
 4. You must believe in me for everlasting life!
 5. And He knows that many will not believe—only those His Father has given to Him.
- (e) From Hard to Follow to HARD to follow (strap in, He is about to upend everything).
1. This guy is saying He's the bread of life. Isn't this Jesus, Joseph's boy. We actually know His mother!
 2. Then Y'shua drops the bomb!

- 1) Your ancestors all ate the manna in the wilderness and guess what? They are all dead!
 - 2) You have the option to eat the bread of life and live.
 - 3) Here's how it works. My body is the bread and My blood is the drink.
 - 4) Eat and drink and you will live. Don't and you will die like your ancestors!
 - 5) Their oblivious shock... "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"
 - 6) And this was not a private claim... these things He said in the synagogue in Capernaum.
- (f) "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"
1. Are you offended by this radical claim?
 2. It's expected that many will walk away at this grand moment of separation!
 3. And that is precisely what happens... *"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more."*
 4. Will you walk away?

C. The Excuses

- (1) Excuses separate true-disciples from pretend-disciples
 - (a) The Great Banquet—An exercise in separation...

1. “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” (The Bread of Life!)
 2. The Master says, “Come eat bread!” but all He gets is excuses... *“I ask you to have me excused.”*
 - 1) I bought land and must go develop it!
 - 2) I bought new manufacturing equipment and I need to start ramping up production!
 - 3) I got married and I have obligations at home!
 - 4) And...The dog ate my homework!
 3. The Master simply invites others to come.
 - 1) None of those originally invited shall eat the bread (of life!).
 - 2) Just like... *“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”* John 6:66
 - 3) It’s an exercise in separation!
- (b) The Wedding Feast—An exercise in separation...
1. The king invites guests to his son’s wedding feast, but those invited are not willing to come...
 2. He sends out servants (evangelists) multiples times to gather guests, but they are met with resistance (they don’t take the invitation seriously):
 - 1) One is too busy with his family business...

- 2) One is too busy with his corporate responsibilities...
 - 3) Others are just aggravated and convicted by the invitation so they “kill” the messengers!
 - 4) The king is furious and he destroys those who harmed his servants.
3. Since the original invitees are not worthy, He invites people from all over, some good, some not so good.
- 1) He will just sort them out at the feast! How?
 - 2) He will simply see if they are wearing the proper attire (are they clothed in righteousness?)
 - 3) If not, He will toss them out! *“For many are called, but few are chosen.”*
 - 4) It’s an exercise in separation!

D. The Reasons

- (1) Reasons separate true-disciples from pretend-disciples
 - (a) One Touch—An exercise in separation...
 1. No Excuses: The reason she touched Him!
 - 1) She declared to Him in the presence of all the people **the reason she had touched** Him and how she was healed immediately.
 - 2) She had unwavering faith that one touch of His garment would heal her 12 years of suffering, so

- much faith that she dared push through the crowd in her “unclean state,” not only “illegally” touching all those around her, but willing to touch the Messiah Himself (and risk “defiling” Him!)
- 3) Yes! That much faith! “*Daughter, your faith has made you well.”
 - 4) *Y’shua calls her daughter, presumably because she had been shunned from her family for 12 years (as her sickness was likely viewed as a curse) and He has now welcomed her into new life in her new family!
2. No Excuses: The reason He touched her!
- 1) Jairus also had unwavering faith.
 - 2) His *daughter has died suddenly (also after 12 years) and he is certain that one touch from Y’shua will restore her to life. (Matthew’s version: “*Come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.*”)
 - 3) Y’shua agrees: “*Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.*”
 - 4) He enters the house and raises the “daughter” into new life with just one touch.
3. Please see [The Reason](#) for additional teachings about this incident.

(b) One Hope—An exercise in separation...

1. Be separated unto Yahweh in you hearts.
2. Be ready to share The Reason you have hope!
3. Stay and do so, even when it is in the midst of severe difficulties and persecution.

(2) The Reason—Even when your life is on the line!

(a) “Let us go to Judea again.” (Even though the last time it was very dangerous!)

1. Lazarus is sick and near death.
2. Y’shua waits until the proper time and then states His intention to go handle the matter.

(b) “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

1. The last time You were in that area, they wanted to kill You!
2. Nevertheless, Y’shua is going anyway. Who will follow?
3. Thomas echoes the words that reveal the heart of all true disciples... “Let us also go, ***that we may die with Him.***”
4. Are you willing? Are you making excuses, or do you have a reason?

(c) It seems like an impossible choice, but... “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

1. After the rich young ruler had become sorrowful and walked away...vv. 18-23
2. How hard it is to make these choices...
3. Sure it's impossible if you trust in your own strength, but with God it is possible!
4. And in the end, when you surrender your life for the sake of the kingdom... your reward, both now and into eternity, will be many fold!

(d) Back to John 6: FINAL QUESTION!

1. These are hard sayings (all this eat My flesh and drink My blood stuff!)
2. And most would-be disciples have opted out!
3. What about you?
4. "Do you also want to go away?"
5. Do you want to go take care of your own life instead?
6. Do you want to go bury the dead?
7. I pray you choose like Peter did, "Where could I possibly go? You are the ONLY ONE with the words of eternal life. And I am a true disciple of the Messiah, the Son of the living God!"

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

IMPORTANT MESSAGE (READ MATTHEW 8-9)

- Review the sermon video and notes for this entire teaching “Let the Dead Bury the Dead” on KingdomEmbassyMinistries.org
- These questions pertain only to Section 3 (Excuses and Reasons)

1. Focus on the Cost of Discipleship in Matthew 8:18-22:

- A. What do you notice in Matthew 8:18 and how is it a similar pattern to John 6:1-3 and 6:15-17?
- B. Why do you think Y’shua responded the way He did in Matthew 8:19-20 when He was told, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”?
- C. Why was Y’shua not open to delays in Matthew 8:21-22?

2. Describe in your own words Y’shua’s opinion about the cost of discipleship. (Use Luke 9:23-25; 14:25-35 and 18:22-23)

- A. How might this relate to your answer in Question 1A?

3. In John 6:22-25, the people are in a frenzy looking for Y’shua...

- A. The disciples took a boat across; how did Y’shua get there and why did it confuse those searching for His whereabouts? (See John 6:15-21)
- B. When they finally locate Him and asked, “Rabbi, when did You come here?” Y’shua drops a bomb on the people!

Describe in detail all that shocked them about His answer.
(See John 6:26-59).

- C. In the end, how did many people react to this new revelation? (See John 6:60-66)

4. There is no doubt that the requirements for discipleship are stringent...

- A. Use the Parable of The Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24) to describe the propensity for people to make excuses.
- B. How do the excuses offered in the parable translate to your life today?
- C. Use the Parable of The Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1-14) to decide why many turn down discipleship invitations?
- D. What happens to those in the end, who do show up, but are unprepared?
- E. What does being unprepared mean spiritually?
- F. How do these answers relate to Matthew 8:18-22?

5. Instead of making excuses to not follow Him, maybe you ought to focus on the reason to follow Him!

- A. Describe the radical faith of the two main subjects in Luke 8:40-56.
- B. Mediate on and comment about these two scenarios: The reason she touched Him! And, the reason He touched her!

6. The story of Lazarus in John 11:1-16 evokes deep emotions...

- A. Why did Y'shua wait to go?
- B. Why were His disciples concerned about Him going to see Lazarus?
- C. What is Thomas' perfect response and how should that influence your life as a disciple?
- D. How might Thomas' response be similar to Peter's response in John 6:67-69?