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## Day One – Recap of Matthew 8:23 – 9:17

I have been teaching through John recently, and so it's always interesting to see the contrast between how John and Matthew give information. If you'll remember some of John's stories, they are incredibly long, at least compared to the other gospels. The story of Nicodemus, the woman at the well, Jesus' last words to His disciples; John gave us tons of detail in his Gospel. Matthew, as I'm sure you've gathered, is on the other side of the spectrum. As a tax collector, perhaps he was just naturally frugal. Or perhaps like all good accountants, he was able to process all the details and come up with the "bottom line."

This is particularly striking with the account of Jesus calming the storm. This is a memorable story, and for good reason. As the folks in Yazoo County, Mississippi can readily attest, a strong storm is not something to take lightly. Jesus calmed this storm with a mere word, and the disciples were duly impressed. Matthew runs through the whole thing in five verses, including only the barest of details. He would have been well suited to Twitter, whereas I can only imagine how frustrating it would have been for one as long-winded as John.

I don't really understand demon-possession, so I won't say much about it. It is fascinating, though, that these demons could spot Jesus from a distance. For all the sorry things we might say about demons, they certainly didn't have a problem giving Jesus the authority He deserved. I doubt they would have marveled when Jesus calmed the storm, unlike the perennially "thick-headed" disciples.

Many of the things Jesus said were laced with irony, but perhaps none as much "Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I came to call the righteous, not sinners." To begin with, telling a Pharisee to go and learn something was, well, not exactly the best way to make friends. It is an offensive thing to say to anyone; to say it to a Pharisee was just asking to be hated. The second statement was a masterful way to bring out the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount and confront the Pharisees with it. On one level, Jesus challenges the Pharisees in their stance not to spend their time with those who are in most need of help. On another level, of course, we know that no one is actually righteous. It's almost like Jesus is explaining His actions according to the distorted understanding of the Pharisees. The Pharisees probably wouldn't have given a second thought to whether they were righteous, but simply assumed it. As is obvious from the rest of Jesus' teaching, it's the most important question they could possibly answer and one that is not as obvious as it looks.

## Day Two – Read 9:18 - 34

Name some “Sermon on the Mount” principles that the ruler and “bleeding woman” display.

Think for a moment about the general feeling in Israel about disease, especially the feminine kind. Notice Jesus’ first words to her after she touches his garment. What can we learn about Jesus from these kind words?

Jesus has demonstrated authority over disease, nature, demons, and sin. In v. 25 what does he reveal that he has power over? How does this relate to Genesis 2.15-17 and Romans 6.23?

## Day Three

List the two miracles mentioned in vv 27-32.

Why did the blind men call Jesus the “Son of David”? What does this imply and when has Matthew spoke of this previously?

Why might Jesus be telling them to tell no one?

## Day Four

Even though these events actually happened, how might this be a metaphor of a spiritual condition in people? It might be helpful to read Isaiah 6:9-10.

How does the Pharisees' reaction to Jesus' healing differ from the crowd's response?

What are the implications of their reactions?

## Day Five

Summarize Jesus' ministry in 9:35-38.

How does this relate to us? In what ways will you respond?

## Day Six

If you are looking to go a little bit deeper in your understanding of the text for this week, try one of these resources:

<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/index.php?action=getBookSections&cid=1&source=1>

<http://www.evangelibrary.org.uk/members/com/nt/jcr/mt/mat-Index.html>

### Sermons Transcripts:

Ligon Duncan - [http://www.fpcjackson.org/resources/sermons/matthew/matthew\\_vol\\_1-2/matthew\\_vol\\_1-2/index\\_Matthew\\_vol\\_1-2.html](http://www.fpcjackson.org/resources/sermons/matthew/matthew_vol_1-2/matthew_vol_1-2/index_Matthew_vol_1-2.html)

### Audio:

John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByScripture/14/>

S. Lewis Johnson - [http://sljinstitute.net/sermons/new%20testament/gospels/matthew/matthew\\_master.html](http://sljinstitute.net/sermons/new%20testament/gospels/matthew/matthew_master.html)