



Series Jesus: The Man Who is God

Passage Matthew 8:18-27

Title Jesus Calls Us to Wholehearted Following

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Discussion Starter – In what way do our current comforts and concerns get in the way of being able to wholeheartedly follow Jesus? What experiences might we be missing if we continue in this way?

The Cost of Following Jesus (Matthew 8:18-22)

- Why do you think Jesus, after seeing the multitudes approaching, commanded those who wanted to follow Him as disciples to go to the other side of the sea? Read Matthew 8:14-17. What additional insight do we gain from these passages as to the purpose and character of Jesus as He desired to go away from the crowds?
- Who do you think would the multitudes represent in our world today?
- What wisdom do you see in Jesus' response to the scribe? How is this applicable to the Church of today?
- Why do you think Jesus did not honor the disciple's request to first bury his father before following Him? What does this reveal to us about the motive of the disciple's heart?
- Read Luke 14:25-33 and Luke 16:13. How do we interpret the message that Jesus was conveying about the cost of being His disciples in these verses? Why did He speak to them in this way?

Getting Into the Boat with Jesus (Matthew 8:23-27)

- When Jesus steps into the boat, we see that His disciples follow him. What is the significance of this action by the disciples? What prerequisite was required to step into the boat and what does stepping into the boat mean to you today as you follow Christ? Read Romans 7:18-22. Discuss the additional insights these verses reveal about stepping into the boat and following Christ.
- Why do you think Jesus allows a tempest to come upon His disciples and why do you think He was asleep? What are the lessons we can learn from this in our Christian walk today?
- In Matthew 8:25-26, Jesus rebukes the disciples and then He rebukes the wind and the sea. Why do you think Jesus rebukes the disciples and what is the significance of Him rebuking the wind and the sea? Read Psalm 89:6-14. What is the lesson to us in this story?

Grow in Your Knowledge of Jesus (Matthew 8:28, 2 Peter 1:2-4)

How did the disciples grow in their knowledge of Jesus during this boat trip? How do we grow in our knowledge of Jesus today? Read 2 Peter 1:2-4. What are some of the promises we have as Christians today that encourage us to respond wholeheartedly to following Jesus?