



**Series:** Unexpected Messiah

**Passage** Mathew 8:23-27

**Title:** Jesus, Crowds and Storms

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard – 7/5/2020

**Discussion Starter** –In the message this week Pastor Dave said, “When people come to Jesus for the wrong reasons he (Jesus) leaves.” What are some of the wrong reasons people come to Jesus? What are some of the right reasons to approach Jesus? Why is it sometimes difficult to tell the difference?

### **Beware of Following Crowds (verses 8:18-22)**

- What first attracted the crowd to Jesus? Why did Jesus depart from the crowd?
- Read Matthew 16:4. Why does Jesus criticize those looking for miraculous signs? Why does he call them “adulterous”? What is the “sign of Jonah”?
- What are some dangers of giving into peer pressure (especially pressure presented by other believers)? What should be the source of our values and character? Is relying on Christian brother/sisters for the source of truth a bad thing? Why might this be dangerous?
- How is attending on-line church in the long term a problem? What does the bible say about this? If you are unable to attend the larger church services on Sundays, what are some ways to engage with the church body? (See also Hebrews 10:24-25).
- Why might we be tempted to redefine Jesus and his values? Have you witnessed this? Or been a part of an activity that redefines Jesus (See also Exodus 32)

### **Storms - Fear and Faith (Verses 8:23-27)**

- What are some purposes of life’s storms? Why doesn’t being a follower of Jesus exempt you from difficulties in life?
- What does scripture say about the persecution of believers? (See Galatians 6:9)
- In Mark’s gospel the disciples in the boat said to Jesus, “Teacher, do you not know that we are perishing?”. What did Jesus ask in response? (See Mark 4:38-40). How should we respond to the sovereignty of Jesus when experiencing a storm?
- When should we prepare for difficulty? How do we prepare for life’s storms?
- What is the long-term result of enduring life’s difficulties? How does the life of Jesus demonstrate this?