

THE KINGDOM-DRIVEN LIFE

“From Teaching to Reaching”

I. Down from the Mount

A. Review:

1. We’ve been working our way through the Gospel of the Kingdom in the book of Matthew. We’ve spent several weeks in Chapters 5-6-7...Jesus giving us the greatest teaching ever recorded...the Sermon on the Mount:

Review Highlights from Sermon on the Mount

- The Beatitudes
- The New Testament Version of the Law
- The Lord’s Prayer
- The Golden Rule
- What life is like for Christ-followers

2. But now, we move OUT of Chapter 7, and IN to Chapter 8. In your Bible, it looks like less than inch, but I can tell you, it’s much, much more than that.

3. As Jesus moves from Chapter 7 to Chapter 8, He transitions:

Moving From Chapter 7 to Chapter 8

- From *teaching* people to *reaching* people.
- From *doctrine* to *doing*
- Down from the Mount of *hearing* into a world needing *healing*

4. And this is God’s prophetic word to us, to you and me, today...we as a church must always be moving UP into the mountain of learning and DOWN into the world of doing. After 3 “red letter” chapters, we come to Chapter 8...

“...and it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings... Matthew 7:28

“...He came down from the mountain...” Matthew 8:1

5. It’s great to hear the Word on Sunday, but on Monday, we all have to “come down from the mountain”!

6. You can’t live on the mountain! We were designed for discipleship; created to be commissioned; Church “goers” must become Kingdom “bringers”!

7. So many times, people start to wonder:

- What's wrong with me?
- What's wrong with the church?
- What's missing in my life?

8. There's nothing much wrong with you or the church except we sometimes don't move from Chapter 7 to Chapter 8!

II. Jesus: The Pattern

A. From Teaching People to Reaching People

1. Here's what moving down from the mountain looked like to Jesus: Contact with suffering people!

"...and as he (Jesus)...came down the mountainside...suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and...said, if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean. Jesus reached out and touched him. I am willing, he said."

Matthew 8:1 NLT

2. Leprosy to the Jews, was more than a sickness, it was "uncleanness". It represented sin and judgment.

- To the Jews, leprosy was a defilement
- Jewish law forbade any contact with lepers
- Lepers were quarantined from Jewish society
- A leper could communicate his disease to others just by entering their house

3. But what did Jesus do? The Bible says, "He **reached** out and **touched** him."

4. The message is clear: We come to the "mount" on Sunday for teaching, but we go out on Monday for "reaching". We must be willing to "touch" the leper! (After all, everyone is born a "leper"...God's people are "lepers" saved by grace!)

5. Statistics show that the longer one is a Christian, the less contact they have with non-Christians! The longer we go to church, the less contact we have with those who need Christ's healing.

6. The result is that we never move from Chapter 7 to Chapter 8, from teaching to reaching!.

We must "move" from Chapter 7 to Chapter 8...

From "Teaching" people to "Reaching People"!

B. The Lessons of Matthew 8

1. After 3 great chapters of teaching, we now come to several chapters on “reaching”; we move from doctrine to doing.

- Cleansing the leper (8:2-3)
- Healing the Centurion’s servant (8:5-13)
- Healing “many people” (8:14-16)

2. While the leper represents sinners, the Roman Centurion clearly speaks of our cross-cultural mission, which requires *the abandonment of all prejudice!*

“Matthew here demonstrates that a call to missions work demands that disciples first abandon ethnic and cultural prejudice. His Jewish readers would be tempted to hate Romans, especially Roman soldiers, and perhaps Roman officers even more.”

Craig Keener, IVP New Testament Commentaries

3. Jesus touches the leper, receives the Gentile soldier, and heals many people, etc. because He was “moved with compassion”. (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27; 18:33; 20:34)

“Compassion”=sympathy, pity, (literally) to have a yearning in the bowels (spleen)

Strong’s Concordance of the New Testament

4. What’s missing in us? What’s missing in our Church, or any New Testament church? Good teaching is not enough! We will never experience the joy of Kingdom-Driven Living if we don’t move from Matthew 7 to Matthew 8; from teaching to reaching; from hearing to healing.

C. Self-Examination

1. We have entered into a season of trial and testing here in America that has brought the fields of the world ripe for harvest!

But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!

John 4:35-36 NLT

He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. 38 So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

Matthew 9:37-38 NLT

2. We labor to bring good *teaching* every Sunday. But without good *reaching* the rest of the week, our lives will continue to feel unfulfilled.

3. We ought to examine ourselves about our compassion for the lost and the un-churched.

4. What hinders us?

- Our own problems and difficulties (we just get consumed with “self”)
- A stronghold of neo-Platonism where we unconsciously separate the “spiritual” from the “physical”
- Insensitivity to the tremendous need around us

“Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice when so many have not heard it once?”

William Carey, Missionary to India

III. Conclusion

A. The Great Omission

1. We find the “Great Commission” for all Christ-followers in Matthew 28:

The Great Commission or the Great Omission?

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

2. Notice, Christ commands “teaching” that leads to “obedience”:

- Teaching must become “reaching”
- Doctrine must lead into “doing”
- Hearing ought to send us into a life of healing

3. This will be a difficult year for so many people who are going to be looking for help. Can we be sensitive to them?

a. To invite someone to church (80% of those invited eventually attend)

b. To offer encouragement

c. To pray for the sick and share the Gospel

4. Easter is coming. And starting the Sunday after Easter, we'll have an incredible church-wide focus based on the incredible new book, "One Month to Live: 30 Days to A No-Regrets Life".

5. And just so you know that you and I are already part of what we talked about today, just watch this video of what God is doing through all of us in our new church plant in San Marcos!

Closing Prayer and Commissioning

Lord, thank You for the mountain top teaching we receive-now help us come down from the mountain and into the world of hurting people-help us move from Matthew 7 to Matthew 8-from teaching to reaching. Open our eyes to the harvest field all around us and help us touch the lives of those in need....In Jesus name, Amen!