

# MATTHEW 8

## **CHRIST HEALS A LEPER (8:1-4)**

St. John Chrysostom on Christ's authority to heal:

"Many and great were the signs that He would offer, but only here has He uttered this distinctive word about His own authority. Jesus confirmed the assumption with respect to His authority by purposely adding, 'I will.' The important thing was not that He said this but that He responded approvingly to what was being said and confirmed it. The cleansing followed immediately."

## **CHRIST HEALS A CENTURION, AND OTHERS (8:5-17)**

Blessed Augustine on saying, "Lord, I am not worthy:"

"By viewing himself as unworthy, (the centurion) showed himself worthy for Christ to come not merely into his house but also into his heart...It would have been no great joy for the Lord Jesus to enter into his house and not to enter his heart."

## **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISCIPLE (8:18-22)**

St. Cyril of Jerusalem on putting God first:

"In this place the question is raised as to whether the honor due God does not take precedence over the duty to one's parents. When the two conflict, it is necessary to hold to the one and despise the other, especially if honoring parents gets in the way of pleasing God...Whoever wishes to serve God must not let any ties of kinship become an excuse, on grounds of preoccupation, for not following Christ."

## **CHRIST CALMS THE STORM (8:23-27)**

St. Peter Chrysologus on the wind and waves obeying Christ:

"Finally, it was by Christ's mere command that He controlled the sea, struck back the winds, stopped the whirlwinds, brought back the calm. Then those who were crossing the sea perceived, believed and acknowledged that He is the very Creator of all."

## **CHRIST HEALS THE DEMONIACS (8:28-34)**

St. Chromatius on why the demons entered a herd of swine:

"The swine to which the demons fled symbolize the unfaithful and unclean people who, feeding at some distance by the sea, were living according to the sins of the world. Thus the swine showed themselves to be a ready residence for the demons. Living nearby this worldly sea they are steeped in error and inordinate desire. This made it easy for them to be overcome by the demons."

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)  
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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