

SIGNS OF MESSIANIC IDENTITY

Matthew 8:1-17 // September 3, 2023 PM

I. Christ's healing miracles exhibit His messianic *authority* (vv. 1-15).

II. Christ's healing miracles exhibit His messianic *adversity* (vv. 16-17).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. How has Jesus been entering into and reliving Israel's history in the first eight chapters of Matthew?
2. What do the three healings in vv. 1-15 have in common? How are they different?
3. What is the relationship between Christ's teaching and His miracles? How are they both related to His authority as Messiah?
4. Why is it surprising that Christ would touch the leper? What does this teach us about Jesus?
5. How did the centurion demonstrate amazing faith in Jesus's power and authority? What did Jesus say would be the eternal outcome for believing Gentiles like him?
6. Read Isaiah 53:4. How did Jesus begin to fulfill this in His earthly ministry? Does this mean that it is always Christ's will to immediately physically heal those who look to Him in faith?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Why will a sentimental Jesus not cut it for those struggling with sin and suffering?
2. Do Christ's authoritative miracles increase my faith in and submission to His authoritative word?
3. Do I struggle with why Christ doesn't heal me now? How does understanding the already, not-yet nature of His kingdom help me to trust Him and rest in His tender mercy?