

Matthew 8-9

In Matthew 8-9 Jesus works 12 miracles

1. Jesus heals a leper
2. The servant of the centurion that is paralyzed
3. Peter's mother-in-law
4. Frees many who were possessed with demons
5. Healed all who were brought to him of their illness
6. Quiets a great storm
7. Drives the demons from two demoniacs
8. Heals a paralytic lying on his bed
9. Raises from the dead the daughter of the Jairus, the ruler
10. Heals the woman with the hemorrhage
11. Restores the sight of two blind men
12. Casts out the demon of a dumb demoniac

CCC 2544 Jesus enjoins his disciples to prefer him to everything and everyone, and bids them, "renounce all that they have" for his sake and that of the Gospel

- The precept of detachment from riches is obligatory for entrance into the Kingdom of heaven

CCC 2547 The Lord grieves over the rich, because they find their consolation in the abundance of goods, "Woe to you that are rich, for you have received your Consolation."

CCC 226 It means making good use of created things: faith in God, the only One, leads us to use everything that is not God only insofar as it brings us closer to him, and to detach ourselves from it insofar as it turns us away from him.

Jesus wants us to renounce all excess; deficiency and disorder

- He wants detachment in order to have BALANCE

Different kinds of ultimate goods: **8 DIFFERENT CATEGORIES**

Goods related to **physical life (preservation of life)**

- nourishment, sexuality, health, sleep, exercise, security and safety (these all give us physical pleasures)

Goods related to **knowledge**

- the satisfaction of curiosity
- Frankl: Man is a being that must have meaning
- We desire meaning and purpose

Goods related to **enjoyment of beautiful things** (aesthetic appreciation)

- art, music, sports events, physical beauty, poetry, mountains, ocean, sunset, trees

Goods related to some **achievement**

- We all want to be good at something
- We want to make a contribution to the world
- We desire to be useful, needed, to have an irreplaceable role in the world
- We don't want to be *just* appreciators, we also want to be makers, and doers.

There are also Good relationships that we pursue

Good relationship with **other human persons**

- This is the good of Friendship
 - Includes married love
 - Family relationships
 - The love between all persons

Good relationship with **supernatural persons**

- This is the good of Religion

Good of **self-identity**: a good relationship between our inner life and our outer life. This is what allows us to be honest, sincere, and let's us live according to our convictions.

- Makes our lives authentic, consistent.
- Without this good, we feel phony, fake
- This doesn't mean doing whatever we feel like; and it doesn't necessarily mean "being yourself"
- It means living according to truth and goodness

Good relationships between our **internal faculties**

- This is the good of *inner peace*
- Integrity of the powers of the soul (Intellect, will and passions all working in harmony)
- This good gives us mental and emotional stability

Money, Power and Pleasure: The world thinks that the 8 Goods are the means to get us Money and Power. No! Money and power are only desirable insofar as it can help us to gain one of these 8 goods. Pleasure is the by-product of obtaining one of these 8 goods. When my desire is fulfilled I experience pleasure

True happiness is

- the overall fulfillment of the human (all 8 goods)
- Rather than fulfillment in one or two areas

The eight goods are eight cups

God is pure being (I am Who am)

- Truth, beauty, goodness, act (achievement)
- This is being

The eight fundamental goods are:

- The cups by which we receive the Living Water: God
- The different receptors by which we receive God
- By pursuing the eight goods in a balanced way we are pursuing God
- But they are only limited shares of Him

All created things are true, good and beautiful because God has poured His Water into them: But what we really enjoyed was the Water. We want the Spring – not just one cup, or just the cup alone.

All evil, all sin comes from pursuing a good in an inappropriate way

- We choose one good to the exclusion of some other good
- When we pursue one good, and in doing so we neglect or attack another type of good it is a sin
- When we do that, we hurt ourselves and others

Happiness comes from the complete or total gaining of the 8 goods

- Happiness: Holiness; Virtue is a Balanced Life

Matthew 8:1-4 “And he stretched out his hand and touched him”

In these miracles Jesus makes use of signs to heal: voice, spittle, the laying on of hands, **Mark 7:32-36; Mark 8:22-25; Mud, water and washing, John 9:6-7, oil Mark 6:12-13**

The sick try to touch him: **Luke 6:17-19**, “for power came forth from him and healed them all.”

1504 And so in the Sacraments Christ continues to touch us in order to heal us!

1115 The Sacraments of the Church now continue the works which Christ had performed during his earthly life.

1116 The Sacraments are as it were “powers that go forth” from the Body of Christ to heal the wounds of sin and give us the new life of Christ.

- **St. Gregory the Great**, “what was visible in our Savior has passed over into his mysteries.”

Matthew 8:16-17

Moved by so much suffering Christ not only allows himself to be touched by the sick, but he makes their miseries his own: “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.

1505 But he did not heal all the sick. His healings were signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God. They announced a more radical healing: the victory over sin and death through His Passover.

549 Nevertheless He did not come to abolish all evils here below, but to free men from the gravest of slavery, sin, which thwarts them in their vocation as God's children and causes all forms of human bondage.

We should often seek the healing power of Christ in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**.

v 8:23-27 Just before this event, Mt 6:25-34, Jesus teaches the Apostles never to be anxious because the Father loves us and will always care for us. And he teaches them "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7,

Then He gives them "**on the job training**" by allowing them to encounter a great trial and letting them experience His care in the midst of the trial.

Why did our Lord allow the disciples to go through this storm? **St. John Chrysostom** says, "that He might exercise the athletes of the world in temptations and terrors." To strengthen our faith hope and love in Him.

8:28-34

550 The coming of God's kingdom means the defeat of Satan's: "If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." **Matthew 12:26-28** Jesus' exorcisms free some individuals from the domination of demons. These exorcisms anticipate Jesus' great victory over the devil. The Kingdom of God is definitively established when Satan's kingdom is crushed through Christ's death on the Cross.

Matthew Chapters 1-9 We see Jesus establish His divine identity.

- He is Emmanuel, God with us.

In 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives His main body of teaching and when He is finished, Mt 7:28 "The crowds were astonished at His teaching for He taught them as having authority, not as their scribes."

In chapters 8-9, Jesus works miracle after miracle confirming his divine identity. If you do not believe He is God because of his words, believe because of His mighty deeds.

A striking example appears in 9:1-8

- Jesus establishes His authority to forgive sins.
- Then He entrusts this power to the Apostles.
 - **Mt 16; 18:18, John 20:21**

9: 6 Rise take up your bed and go home

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation the eternal punishment is forgiven

- The temporal punishment remains

- That is, the vice, the bad habits and disordered attachments we reap through sin

These must be conquered through virtue

- Meditation
- Resolution
- Particular examine

9:33 After seeing all the mighty works of Christ, “The crowds marveled, saying, ‘Never was anything like this seen in Israel.’”

9:34 But the leaders of Israel respond, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.” **He does this by the power of the devil.** The leaders of Israel, God’s covenant family, formally reject Christ

9:36 **St. John Chrysostom** says Jesus laments because His people are like sheep without shepherds, in fact, the shepherds, the Pharisees, have become as wolves in sheep’s clothing by leading the people away from the Messiah and into destruction by calling Jesus the prince of demons.

The Pharisees, the leaders of Israel, have rejected the Messiah, therefore God must appoint new leaders of His covenant family. New leaders to guide and guard the people of God.

Mt 21:33-46 Parable of the wicked tenants.

9: 36-37 Then Jesus turns to His disciples and says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Mt 10:1, Jesus appoints the laborers, the new leaders of His covenant family to take the place of the Pharisees who have rejected the Messiah.