

The Gospel According to Matthew

How Does Jesus Want Us to Believe?

August 15, 2021

Matthew 8v1-17

8 When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; 2 and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." 3 He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

5 When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him 6 and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." 7 And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." 8 The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." 10 When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. 11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, 12 while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 13 And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

14 When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; 15 he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. 16 That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. 17 This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

How does Jesus want us to believe in Him?

All these ideas...

...down from the mountain..."

leper...knelt..."Lord,..."

Clean = ?

Discovered
or
Rescued?

The Gospel According to Judas
by NT Wright

"We define who we are, and what we ought to do, on the basis of what story we see ourselves in."
_ James K. A. Smith

A centurion...

"Lord..."

What's the qualifying human behavior?

After Doubt by AJ Swoboda

What's with the story about Peter's mother-in-law?

How do we find a healthy tension between glamorizing deconstruction on the one hand and demonizing it on the other?

In community?

How does Jesus want us to believe in Him?

Belief vs. Faith

Where's the heat for you?
What does it look like for you
to trust Jesus with it?

Books: *Judas and the Gospel of Jesus* by NT Wright; *After Doubt* by AJ Swoboda; *How (Not) to be Secular* by James K. A. Smith

Podcasts: *In Faith & Doubt* by A.J. Swoboda & Nijay K. Gupta

Looking to Connect?: One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page. You can schedule from there.

Meet with a Pastor, Therapist or Spiritual Director ?: Email info@narratechurch.org and we will schedule a meeting or help you get connected with a therapists or spiritual directors.