

The Messiah's Works

Matthew 8–9

What We Found

- After the Messiah's words come the Messiah's works: ten miracles showing the Sermon's authority touching lepers, commanding storms, forgiving sins, and raising the dead.
- Jesus heals through touch, word, and even the fringe of a garment: grace working through visible, physical things. The sacraments continue exactly this pattern.
- The centurion's humble sentence so pleased the Lord that the Church puts it on our lips before Communion at every Mass: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof.
- Psalm 107 already told us who stills storms so the waves are hushed. The disciples' question in the boat, “what sort of man is this,” has an answer waiting in Israel's own prayer book.
- At the paralytic's healing, Jesus proved that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins, and Matthew records the crowds glorifying God who had given such authority to men. Only God forgives sins, and God forgives through the men his Son sends.
- The first people in Matthew's narrative to address Jesus as “Son of David” are two blind men begging for mercy. The blind see who he is.

Voices of the Church

Voices of the Church: St. Augustine (Sermons on the Gospels)

By declaring himself unworthy to receive Christ under his roof, the centurion showed himself worthy to receive Christ into his heart. Humility is the doorway the Lord delights to enter.

Voices of the Church: St. John Chrysostom (Homilies on Matthew)

At the paralytic's healing, the visible cure was given as witness of the invisible one: the healed body walked out as evidence of the absolved soul.

Voices of the Church: St. Peter Chrysologus (Sermons)

The woman reached for the hem and touched heaven: faith made a border of cloth a channel of divine power. God does not disdain to work through the smallest things his Son has touched.

Live It This Week

- At Mass this week, pray the centurion's line slowly and deliberately, remembering the man who first said it.
- Make a plan for confession this month: pick the day and put it where you will see it.
- Show one act of mercy-not-sacrifice this week: choose a person over a performance.

Scripture Memory

Matthew 9:13 (RSV2CE): *"Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."*

Before Next Session

Read Matthew 10–12, noticing what Jesus promises his messengers and what opposition begins to gather.

Catechism References

CCC 1503–1505 · CCC 1441–1442 · CCC 1386