# Gospel of Matthew Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Matthew Chapter 8

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:Matthew 8 includes six sections that continue thematically into chapter 9. Almost any of the stories in Mt. 8 could be great stories for a club talk. I will focus on Jesus calming the storm, but we should know how this story fits in the bigger picture of what Matthew is saying. Mt. 8:1-22 is about how Jesus can heal people, Mt. 8:23-9:9 is about how Jesus’ power extends to stop storms, expel demons, and forgive sins. Matthew makes clear the extent of Jesus’ divinity: Jesus has unique authority; Jesus is no mere man. The disciples ask the perfect question we all are forced to ask (eventually): What sort of man is this...? Here is a brief outline of Jesus calming the storm Mt. 8:23-27:1. The setting: Jesus and the disciples in a boat (8:23)
2. The challenge/emergency: Deadly storm, Jesus asleep (8:24)
3. The request: Lord-Save...About to be destroyed (8:25)
4. The solution: Little-faithers’ storm calmed (8:26)
5. The response: *What sort of man is this?* (8:27)

\**A little soap-box comment: Please recognize that this story is very clear in its main point that Jesus is divine, Jesus is God, Jesus’ power extends even over nature. The natural and correct interpretation of this passage is to ask “Who is this man / What sort of man is this?” It is OK to eventually also ask “What is your storm?” But, recognize that this is not the point of this story. When we make this passage about only about, or mostly about, “our storm” and not Jesus, we are distorting the gospel into in an individualistic, self-centered, self-help talk that short-circuits evangelism and discipleship. Mature disciples know that Jesus doesn’t always “calm our storm” but he promises to be with us* *in the midst of our storm. The promise of the gospel is Jesus Emmanuel, God with us, not God-will-do-what-I-want.*  |
| Possible main point(s):* What sort of man do *you* think Jesus is? Who do *you* say Jesus is? Not your parents, friends, YL leaders, who do *you* think Jesus is?
* Jesus wants to show you who he is, even if you feel like you have hardly any faith at all, or you are full of fear, you won’t be bothering Jesus. Ask Jesus to show up in your life tonight.
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus displays his true humanity (he falls asleep! 8:24) *and* his true divinity (he calms storms! 8:26). Jesus is 100% human and 100% God.
* Who rebukes a sea? Or wind? Sounds like a crazy person., but Jesus’ words were effective.
* A group of fishermen (see below), ask Jesus, who wasn’t a professional fisherman, for help on the sea.
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| What this has to do with our life:* Jesus isn’t only needed by lepers (8:1-4), paralyzed people (8:5-13), sick people (8:14-17), but also by healthy people, healthy disciples (8:23-27).
* Little faith still is real faith, the disciples “little faith” still gets Jesus’ saving response (8:26).
* Jesus doesn’t say fear is bad, in fact fear might lead us to experience Jesus’ power (8:26).
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| Relevant technical details:* “the boat” (v.23) = This would have been a small fishing boat that would fit 6-12 people. IN 1986 a 1st century boat was discovered in the Sea of Galilee by archaeologists. For more details see [HERE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_of_Galilee_Boat) and also [THIS VIDEO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hti4iO-2eRc).
* “disciples” (v.23) = Jesus’ closest followers. At this point of Jesus’ life, likely only fishermen, see Mt. 4:18-22.
* “great storm” (v.24) = Technically the Greek word is a great “mega-shake” (In Greek = “seismos”, where we get the term/phrase “seismic activity” which measures earthquakes . Matthew literally uses the word for an earthquake, he could have used other words that are closer to a “storm.” While there are a few reasons why he used this word, the most important is to stress the severity and danger of this storm. Matthew uses the word to describe an activity only two others times: the earthquake at the cross (27:54) and at the resurrection (28:2).
* “Lord, save us, we are perishing” (v.25) = In the original this is only three words for emphasis Lord-Save-Perishing
* “calm” (v.26) = Flat, still waters. Technically, “mega calm” in Greek, from “mega earthquake” to “mega calm”.
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| Possible illustrations:* There are many “props” directly from the story you could use in your talk: boat, storm, sea, waves, wind, calm.
* Play [THIS](https://youtu.be/VpksE9iI-oI) sound file, soft then very loud as you tell the story, then stop it when you say “be still” or “stop”.
* A clip from the movie “The Perfect Storm” may capture the intensity of a huge storm. Look [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9Tdw5nG4dQ). Real [CLIP](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQUXbkAdZhg).
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*For more details see ylhelp.com*

Matthew 8 (ESV)

**Jesus Cleanses a Leper**

**8**When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. **2**And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” **3**And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. **4**And 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, for a proof to them.”

**The Faith of a Centurion**

**5**When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, **6**“Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” **7**And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” **8**But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. **9**For I too 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 servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” **10**When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. **11**I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, **12**while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” **13**And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

**Jesus Heals Many**

**14**And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. **15**He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. **16**That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. **17**This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

**The Cost of Following Jesus**

**18**Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. **19**And a scribe came up and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” **20**And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” **21**Another of the disciples said to him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” **22**And Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.”

**Jesus Calms a Storm**

**23**And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. **24**And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. **25**And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” **26**And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. **27**And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

**Jesus Heals Two Men with Demons**

**28**And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. **29**And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?” **30**Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. **31**And the demons begged him, saying, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.” **32**And he said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. **33**The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. **34**And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.