

- B. Many of the church fathers believed that the boat here represents the church.

- C. This story began with Jesus giving orders and ends asking: *What kind of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?*

### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Does anything surprise you about Jesus' response to the two would-be followers in 8:18-22? Explain.
- What is the first part of the Great Commission? Why is it vital to make sure we don't leave it off?
- What does 8:18 say that is essential to understanding the purpose of this narrative? How does the account of the centurion prepare us to understand this account?
- What is the significance of this section on obedience to Jesus when one considers its location just after 3 chapters of Jesus' commands?
- What is wrong with each of the two responses in 8:19-22?
- Why is the response of little-faith in 8:23-27 a picture of the proper response to Jesus?
- What does the account of the boat ride tell us about what happens when we obey Jesus' command and follow Him?
- What is the one thing that frequently keeps you from obeying Jesus? How does this text teach you to deal with it?

## DISCIPLE 1.0: Unbelievably Demanding Jesus

Jerry Cisar — June 23, 2019

Text: Matthew 8:18-27

### Introduction

#### I. The Command of Jesus (18)

- A. The Centurion's Faith in Relation to Authority (8:9)

- B. Jesus issued a command.

#### II. The Deceived Response (19-20)

- A. One who was an Expert Teacher of the Law
- i. Is the scribe a disciple?

- a) “One who was a scribe (19)... another who was one of the disciples...”.
- b) One of the reasons we know this scribe isn’t a disciple is that he calls him, “Teacher!”

ii. The response of our faith must be different than his (5:20)!

B. He wants to go with Jesus, but evidently for the wrong reasons.

### III. The Divided Response (21-22)

- A. But another from among the disciples...
  - i. Matthew highlights the problem: “first let me do this...”.
  - ii. Jesus has given an order.
- B. Why are these accounts here, in Matthew 8?
  - i. The Sermon on the Mount was given with authority (7:29).

- ii. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writing about the difficult question of what it means to live the Christian life, says believers in Jesus “must from the outset discard as **irrelevant** ...two questions... ‘How can I *be* good?’ and ‘How can I *do* good?’, and instead of these he must ask **the utterly and totally different question** ‘What is the will of God?’”  
 “This requirement is so immensely far-reaching because it presupposes a decision with regard to the ultimate reality; it presupposes a decision of faith.” (Bonhoeffer, Ethics, p. 186)

### IV. The Devoted Response (23-27)

- A. What about the disciples who obey His command?
  - i. “... they got into the boat and followed him and ‘get this’ a storm which shook them violently came up on the lake.”
  - ii. And then what? Jesus is sleeping!
    - a) This is how we recognize who Jesus is (Psalm 44)!
    - b) The disciples pray: “Lord, Save, drowning!”
      - Prayers don’t need to be long to be effective!
    - c) When we respond to Jesus’ commands in obedience and go to him in prayer regarding the trouble it gets us in, He answers!
  - iii. “‘Little-faith-ones’ why are you so afraid?”
    - a) Jesus never requires strong faith or great faith.
    - b) All we need is a mustard-seed amount of faith.