Matthew Chapter 6-8

* Continuation of the Sermon on the Mount

6:1-18

* Expands upon three practices
  + Giving to others
  + Prayer
  + Fasting
* Jesus takes practices used for promotion and increased reputation

6:1-4

* Almsgiving
  + Improper motivation removes the “reward” from reach
    - The reward being God’s blessing
  + The exaggerated caricature of proclamation and trumpet blowing is an “attack” on the synagogue and those who are a part of it
  + Disciples and believes meet each others needs quietly and genuinely
  + Hypocrisy here refers to those who publicly are compassionate but really have no genuine concern
  + When you give money it is between you and God

6:5-15

* Prayer
  + Prayer to gain public approval contrasts the private praying of the disciples
    - Prayer is about communication with God, not public performance
  + Disciples do not use wordy prayers because God already knows what they need
    - Disciples prayer focuses on
      * The present and future honoring of God
      * The coming of God’s empire
      * The doing of God’s will
  + Reflects a fundamental disconnect with Rome’s world
    - Sincerity and simplicity mark genuine prayer

6:16-18

* Fasting
  + Fasting is something assumed “when” language
    - Emphasized it is not about selfish display

Matthew Chapter 7

* Continuation of the sermon on the Mount

7:1-5

* Judging others
  + “Not Judging” does not forbid the practice of carefully discerning appropriate (and inappropriate) practices
    - A command to not exercise God’s right to determine one’s final destiny
  + Self examination and correction provide context for good correction

7:6

* Do not force character forming work on those who will not receive it

7:15-23

* False Prophets
  + People who are opponents to Matthew’s Jesus
    - Otherwise unclear who they are
  + People who are not living what they believe

Matthew Chapter 8

* Action
  + Jesus cleanses a leper
  + Jesus heals a centurians
  + Jesus heals at Peter’s house
  + Jesus stills the storm
  + Jesus heals the Gadarene demoniacs

8:1-4

* Cleanses a leper
  + Jesus tells him not to tell anyone how he was made clean

8:5-13

* Jesus heals a centurion's servant
  + A centurion commanded up to 100 foot soldiers
    - The greek word here for servant is used in other places as son or child

8:14-17

* Jesus heals many at Peter’s house
  + Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law
    - Implies that Peter is married
  + More fulfillment language
    - Prophecy from Isaiah

8:23-27

* Jesus stills the storm
  + The disciples were afraid, not Jesus
  + “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?” v.27

8:28-34

* Jesus heals the demon possessed
  + So fierce no one could pass
  + The swineheards told the people what happened with the demon possessed
    - The town came out and begged Jesus to leave
      * Jesus disrupted the town’s social and economic arrangements