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