

What Does it Mean to be a Christian?

(Matthew 8:1-34)

- Introduction:
1. There's more to being a Christian than wearing a t-shirt.
 2. A Christian is one who belongs to Jesus and has committed to making Jesus Lord of one's life.
 3. As a Christian, it is our aim to be conformed into the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29).
 4. But we can't do that if we don't know who Jesus was and what he did.
 5. Matthew 8 provides us with a clear and challenging example of Jesus that we should follow.

I. Jesus Cared about People

- A. People were not an inconvenience to Jesus, but his mission.
 1. (Matthew 8:1-3) Healed a leper.
 2. (Matthew 8:5-13) Healed a young girl.
 3. (Matthew 8:14-17) Healed Peter's mother-in-law and many others.
- B. When we're too busy to help people, we're too busy and we probably look a lot like the priest and Levite in (Luke 10:30-36).

II. Jesus Complimented People

- A. (Matthew 8:5-13).
- B. When Jesus saw great faith, he called it out, and spoke of it to others (Matthew 8:10).
- C. Do we do the same?
- D. Are we pursuing edification (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)?

III. Jesus Challenged People

- A. (Matthew 8:18-22; 8:23-27).
- B. We need to challenge each other toward greater faith and sacrifice.
- C. We need accountability (Proverbs 27:17; James 5:16; Joshua 24:14-15).

IV. Jesus Changed People

- A. (Matthew 8:28-34).
- B. (Mark 5:18-20) Once demon possessed, now possessed with a passion for Jesus.
- C. Are we changing people's lives?
- D. Better yet, are you, individually, changing someone's life?

- Conclusion:
1. This morning's lesson has simply been a call to be like Jesus, and to remind you of what he was like.
 2. Let's leave here today with a greater resolve to unashamedly be like Jesus!