

**6th** 9:2 people with every type of infirmity and disease are brought to him and he heals them all.

**Then in 9:9**, as He passes by Matthew (Levi) at the receipt of customs he calls him to "Follow Me!" and on and on and on and on.....

a dead girl is raised to life

an old woman who is hemorrhaging to death

touches his garment and is healed

two blind men receive their sight

a mute man receives his voice

**9:35** -He goes throughout the cities and villages teaching, preaching the kingdom and healing diseases and afflictions.

**37** *There is much to do, but few to do the work - pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into the fields.*

**In Chapter 10** - he sends the twelve out giving them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal every disease and every affliction.....

Can you see the point here? We NEED the mountain top - but the mountain top is not a place we are to inhabit. Peter, James and John needed the mount of transfiguration, they needed that experience - but they wanted to STAY there.

Statistics show that the longer a person is a christian the less contact they have with non-christians. The more they go to church, the less contact we have with those who need Christ healing. The result: We never move from Matthew Chapter 7 to Matthew Chapter 8 - We don't move from Teaching to Reaching.

We need meetings but our goal is not more, bigger and better meetings - our goal is to be strengthened for the work that takes place when we come down from the mountain.

I am distressed when I turn to a christian tv station and I see something like this: Someone is on a stage in front of thousands and thousands of believers. They are having a mountain top experience. The Holy Spirit has done a mighty work in their midst and then I hear this: We've been here every day and every night for the past 12 weeks. We're in REVIVAL. The glory of the Lord is here. No body wants to go home. We want to stay here in his presence. You should leave where you are and get

on a bus or a plane and come to where we are - **lets extend the meeting.**

**Let's build a tent for Jesus and stay right here!**

That's great preacher, but there are men in the valley whose lives are being eaten away by the leprosy of sin

Just outside that door - there are men and women paralyzed by their fear, crushed by their addictions, devastated by poverty, chained up by demons.

Jesus took them up to the mountain, but he also led them down off that mountain and when he did he gave them authority of the power of devils and to heal every kind of disease.....and then he sent them out to set men free.

He didn't send them to the next revival meeting  
He didn't send them to the next prophetic conference  
He didn't send them to the next seminar

Bryan and I work hard to insure that you have good teaching every week, but if we don't have good "reaching" what do we really comprehend of the Kingdom of God Teaching becomes Reaching, Doctrine becomes Doing and Hearing should propel us into a life of Healing.

He sent them into the harvest fields to labor the labor of the kingdom. He sent them to the "tax collectors" and "sinners" (chapter 9, v. 10) He sent them as spiritual physicians to the sin sick, that they might be healed and made whole.

This morning, I want to give you authority to go from this place and begin to engage men in their need - You have authority in Jesus Name to touch the leper, spiritual or physical.

You have the authority in Jesus Name to cast out demons

You have the authority to set the captive free, to open the eyes of the blind, to give voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. This is what Church is all about.....its wonderful to go to the mountain top and have a great worship experience, but its all about coming down from the mountain to do the work of the kingdom.

# AGAPE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PULPIT SERIES

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## From Teaching to Reaching

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In the book of Matthew, chapters 5, 6, & 7 we find the record of what has come to be called, "The Sermon on the Mount." It is the largest single block of the recorded teachings of Jesus given in a single passage. In this great sermon, delivered from the top of a mountain outside of Jerusalem Jesus sums up the principles of the Kingdom Government, the establishment of the legal foundation of the Kingdom of God, Guidance for personal character and behavior of its citizens

In the Sermon on the Mount we find The Beatitudes, The Golden Rule, and the Lord's Prayer.....Jesus teaches on the law, anger, divorce, retaliation, treatment of our enemies, care for the poor and needy, judgement of sin in others.

It is a rich text giving us a full, robust image of what the Kingdom of God will look like.

Often, large crowds would follow Jesus from place to place - and sometimes he would pull aside on a hillside where he could be heard and teach the people the principles of the Kingdom of God. It must have been an exhilarating experience.

In Matthew 17 we read about another "mountain top" experience when Peter, James and John accompany Jesus on one of his many prayer walks. As Jesus is praying he is suddenly transfigured (his outer appearance reflected His inner nature) and Peter, James and John saw a vision of Moses and Elijah sitting and talking with Jesus.

Peter was so excited about the event and suggested that they should stay right there on the mountain top. This is wonderful, we should stay right here from now on.....I'll make three tents; one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah and we'll just stay here and bask in the glory of it. It was at that moment that there was a great light out of heaven and the voice of the Father spoke, "This is my son, with whom I am well pleased, listen to him." And from that place, Jesus led them down the mountain.

In our 2 texts, the people were having what we sometimes like to call a "mountain top experience." They were basking in the glory of the living God, they were relishing the spiritual food that flowed from the Savior's mouth....but when it was finished, they had to come down off the mountain.

Look with me in Matthew 8:1: "And when he came down from the mountain great crowds followed him and behold,

a leper came.....a leper came and knelt before him saying, "Lord if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him saying, "I will; be clean."

I have a simple challenge for us this morning. Many people have tried to make the christian faith into an unending string of "mountain top experiences." from which we don't really want to come down.

We love to come to church and worship.....something wonderful happens to us when we get together and hear the beginnings of the sounds of worship. ;

We love hear the teachings of the Kingdom - I get to church every week to receive the Word of God....I keep my radio tuned to Light Radio during the day, every day to get me through to the next Sunday.

Some people spend their whole lives in pursuit of the next christian meeting, often traveling great distances to hear the latest prophet or see the newest healer, to receive a spiritual teaching from a great teacher.....leaping as it were, from mountain top to mountain top; hungry to experience great worship, receive a word of prophecy, see a miraculous healing, or hear a new and exciting teaching.

But folks, the task of the church is not fulfilled in a meeting and the work of the Kingdom is not accomplished on a mountain top. Jesus came down from the mountain and a leper came and knelt before Jesus.....crying out for help.....Jesus was his last hope.....there was no other place for him to go except back to the graveyard where lepers were forced to live.....and Jesus touched him! Unheard of! Unthinkable! UnLAWful to touch a leper.....and yet He did - and the man was healed.

You know its great to come to the mountain top every Sunday to experience great worship, but when the chords of the instruments have faded away and the songs have ended.....there are lepers waiting for a healing touch.

Its wonderful to attend great events and meetings to hear the great words of anointed teachers - but when the echoes have died down in the meeting place there are some storms that need to be calmed.....and lives strangled by demons to be set free.....there are some blinded eyes that need to be opened tongues to be loosed.....the har-

vest is plenteous but the workers are few - because they are often tied up in meetings!

Audrey Lumsden was tellings us over lunch this past week that she and Bruce are scheduled to attend a conference of all the missionaries in their organization this summer on a cruise ship in the Carribbean Ocean. All their missionaries from North and South America will meet for this great conference on the high seas in a luxury Cruise ship. She ended the story by saying, "but we didn't go last year and we probably won't go this year." She rolled her eyes and smiled just as Bruce returned to the table and said, "What do you think about us going on the conference cruise this summer?" He blew air through his lips and said, "Got too much work to do to go down there and talk to a bunch of missionaries."

I understand that a man needs to rest and refresh, but I also understand Bruce's heart. There are loggers and fishermen and Acadians who are rushing toward hell without a savior and Bruce feels too much pressure to get the Word to them to before its too late. He finished by saying, "I got all of eternity to chat with them in heaven - no need to do it now." I understand. I understand.

Now, let's back up to the end of the meeting in Matthew 7:28-29, "And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, not as their scribes. (This is old english for saying - "this guy knew what he was talking about.)

Then, into Chapter 8, verse 1: here is what we see - The mountain top experience is over - its ended. Now, Jesus rolls up his sleeves so to speak, and gets down to the real work.

He moves from Teaching to Reaching  
He moves from Doctrine to Doing  
He comes down from the Mountain of Hearing to a world of Healing

- 1st** - v. 2 a leper came to him and He touched him.
- 2nd** - v. 5 When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came, "my servant is paralyzed and is suffering much....."
- 3rd** - v. 14 - He comes to Peter's house and finds Peter's mother-in-law sick with a fever and heals her.
- 4th** v. 23-27 Calms a stormy sea
- 5th** - v. 28. encounters two men filled with demons and casts them out