

## Week 4 Day 1

**Readings:** Matthew 7:21-29; Acts 8:1-13; Psalm 20; Proverbs 6:1-5; Genesis 41.

**Focus Verse:** "Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word." (Acts 8:4)

**Key Concept:** Doing the Right Thing (Matthew 7:21-29). Being accepted by God demands more than profession of faith; it requires action. But just "doing something" is not sufficient, either. We must do the things Jesus says to do. Our love and respect for Him is demonstrated in our obedience.

To emphasize His point, Jesus offers a vivid illustration of houses built on different foundations. If we want to survive the trials and temptations of life, we must be sure that our lives are built on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ.

**Action:** Examine the foundation of your spiritual house. Is it rock or sand? Is the building solid? Just as physical buildings fall due to neglect, your spiritual house will stand firm only if you keep building it up. Grow in the Lord today.

## Week 4 Day 2

**Readings:** Matthew 8:1-13; Acts 8:14-25; Psalm 21; Proverbs 6:6-11; Genesis 42-43.

**Focus Verse:** "Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power." (Psalm 21:13)

**Key Concept:** Consider the Ant (Proverbs 6:6-11). Without being driven constantly by a supervisor, the ant diligently proceeds with its work. Fair weather is viewed as an opportunity to prepare for tougher times. There is much for us to learn. We need to be industrious self-starters. We should apply this point to diligence in daily tasks, and to the work of preparing for eternity. We must use our time and our opportunities wisely.

**Action:** Today, time will slip by never to be reclaimed. Souls will go to meet God, never to have a second chance to prepare. Work, for the night is coming!

## Week 4 Day 3

**Readings:** Matthew 8:14-22; Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:1-21; Proverbs 6:12-15; Genesis 44-45.

**Focus Verse:** "A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth." (Proverbs 6:12)

**Key Concept:** The Suffering Messiah (Psalm 22:1-21). Several references in the New Testament show the Messianic significance of this prophecy. As we read it and meditate upon its words, we can better appreciate the anguish Jesus endured as He sacrificed Himself for our sins. "He bore it all that I might in His presence live."

**Action:** Make note of this passage, and read it again the next time you partake of the Lord's supper. Remember what Jesus endured for you.

## Week 4 Day 4

**Readings:** Matthew 8:23-34; Acts 9:1-19; Psalm 22:22-31; Proverbs 6:16-19; Genesis 46-47.

**Focus Verse:** "And the men marveled, saying, 'Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?'" (Matthew 8:27)

**Key Concept:** Conversion of a Zealous Pharisee (Acts 9:1-19). The conversion of Saul of Tarsus stands as a clear demonstration of the power of the gospel. Saul was a zealous Pharisee, whole-heartedly opposed to the one called Jesus. But when he came face to face with the facts, he was honest and admitted the very Truth he had opposed so violently. The gospel still has the power to change evil men into the children of God.

**Action:** Marvel at the greatness of Christ. Then, make a special effort to tell a sinner that he needs the Savior.

## Week 4 Day 5

**Readings:** Matthew 9:1-8; Acts 9:20-31; Psalm 23; Proverbs 6:20-29; Genesis 48-50.

**Focus Verse:** "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)

**Key Concept:** "God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). After enduring a series of trials and injustices, and long years of separation from his family, Joseph offered this comment on the action of his jealous brothers. Despite their evil intentions, God meant to accomplish good through Joseph's ordeal. Faith in the God who rules the world knows that He has the ability to use even the cruellest of circumstances for good.

**Action:** Accept life's difficulties with trust in the Good Shepherd.

## **Week 4 Day 6**

**Readings:** Matthew 9:9-17; Acts 9:32-43; Psalm 24; Proverbs 6:30-35; Exodus 1-2.

**Focus Verse:** "But when Jesus heard that, He said to them, `Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.'" (Matthew 9:12)

**Key Concept:** Associating with Tax Collectors and Sinners (Matthew 9:9-13). This encounter of Jesus with the Pharisees emphasizes a problem which continues to retard the progress of the gospel. Rather than looking for a few good men who could be easily modified into Christians, we need to trust the power of the gospel to change the vilest of sinners into the sanctified and justified people of God.

**Action:** Seek the sick. Invite them to learn of the Saviour.

## **Week 4 Day 7**

**Readings:** Matthew 9:18-31; Acts 10:1-16; Psalm 25; Proverbs 7:1-5; Exodus 3-4.

**Focus Verse:** "Say to wisdom, `You are my sister,' and call understanding your nearest kin." (Proverbs 7:4)

**Key Concept:** God Rejects Our Excuses (Exodus 3-4). Moses looked for a way to avoid his duty, offering a series of objections which God refused to accept:

- (1) Why me? (3:11)
- (2) I don't know what to say (3:13)
- (3) They won't listen (4:1)
- (4) I'm not gifted/eloquent (4:10)
- (5) Send someone else (4:13).

**Action:** Listen to yourself today. Are you willingly submitting to God's will, or trying to sell Him your lame excuses? Seek God's solutions instead of human excuses!