# Lesson 10 Matthew 7:28-29 - 8:1-34 Sermon on the Mount – Pilgrimage to the City of the King

Life in Christ: When did you feel closest to Our Lord this week?

1. What will disclose whether or not a professing Christians truly believes in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior?

Catechism 678

678 Following in the steps of the prophets and John the Baptist, Jesus announced the judgment of the Last Day in his preaching. Then will the conduct of each one and the secrets of hearts be brought to light. Then will the culpable unbelief that counted the offer of God's grace as nothing be condemned. Our attitude to our neighbor will disclose acceptance or refusal of grace and divine love. On the Last Day Jesus will say: "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

1. Jesus astounded the crowds and confounded the religious authorities by his teaching? How does the Catechism shed light on the response of both groups?

Matthew 7:28-29

28 When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching,

29 for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Catechism 581

581 The Jewish people and their spiritual leaders viewed Jesus as a rabbi. He often argued within the framework of rabbinical interpretation of the Law. Yet Jesus could not help but offend the teachers of the Law, for he was not content to propose his interpretation alongside theirs but taught the people "as one who had authority, and not as their scribes." In Jesus, the same Word of God that had resounded on Mount Sinai to give the written Law to Moses, made itself heard anew on the Mount of the Beatitudes. Jesus did not abolish the Law but fulfilled it by giving its ultimate interpretation in a divine way: "You have heard that it was said to the men of old… But I say to you..." With this same divine authority, he disavowed certain human traditions of the Pharisees that were "making void the word of God".

1. A. In Our Lord’s day, leprosy was a terminal disease. To have leprosy was to be excluded from all social contact, living outside the city, and exclusion from worship in the Temple. Only a priest could declare a person cured of his leprosy (which normally only occurred as a result of some other skin disorder being diagnosed as leprosy). What were the ramifications of being declared cured of leprosy?

Matthew 8:1-4

1 When Jesus came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him.

2 And then a leper approached, did him homage, and said, “Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean.”

3 He stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, “I will do it. Be made clean.” His leprosy was cleansed immediately.

4 Then Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one, but go show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.”

B Why do you think Jesus told the leper, “See that you tell no one”? This is known as the Messianic Secret.

C What would have been the impact of an overt declaration by Jesus that He was the promised Messiah, rightful heir to the throne of David, and the divine Son of God?

1. A. What does the centurion’s response to Jesus indicate about his faith in Him?

Matthew 8:8

8 The centurion said in reply, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed.

B What does Jesus’ response to the centurion tell us about who can be a Christian? Why is that important to you?

1. When God has blessed us (which He does constantly), what should be our response in thanksgiving?

Matthew 8:14-15

14 Jesus entered the house of Peter, and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.

15 He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she rose and waited on him.

1. A. What do you think Jesus means by His reply to the scribe? Consider Jesus words to His disciples in Matthew 16:24.

Matthew 8:18-22

18 When Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side.\*

19 A scribe approached and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”

20 Jesus answered him, “Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.”

21 Another of [his] disciples said to him, “Lord, let me go first and bury my father.”

22 But Jesus answered him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead.”

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

B The cross was a stumbling block for both Jews and Gentiles hindering their acceptance of the Gospel. Yet, in less than 300 years after the crucifixion of Jesus, Christianity became the official state religion of the entire Roman Empire. What accounts for this rapid spread of the Christianity? (Hint: Matthew 16:25)

C What, according to Catholic Tradition, was the fate of all of the Apostles except St. John?