

**CONTINUING OUR SERIES THROUGH MATTHEW'S GOSPEL:
JESUS HEALS - MATTHEW 14 V 34-36.**

34 And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

35 And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent word around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick

36 and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

1. Jesus is recognised.

The miracles of Jesus earlier in chapter 14 (and indeed before that) were absolutely spectacular. News spread around the area and he was recognised by the local people as someone exceptionally special.

- a) How excited/amazed/awed are we when we read of these stories?
- b) Do they strengthen our faith and in what ways?

2. The men's reaction.

The men's reaction was one of not letting this opportunity pass them by. No modern communications - but they did all that they could to help those who were sick to come to Jesus.

- a) What sort of barriers do we erect and what sort of excuses do we make when it comes to speaking of Jesus to others: when it comes to saying we'll pray for them; when it comes to choosing to ignore those who need our help?
- b) What preparation could we make for the above beforehand so that we're ready to react to opportunities?

3. The sick reached out.

It was a busy time and may have looked as if the sick would never achieve their goal of talking to Jesus and ask for healing. Another way was found so that the sick were healed.

- a) The touching of the fringe of Jesus' garment enabled people to be made well. Was this a superstitious act or something else? See Matthew 9 v 18-26. Was it helpful?
- b) Are we doing all that we can to know about the power and person of Jesus Christ so that we can impart this to others? Could you practise by telling others in your homegroup what you believe about Jesus in order to be ready?
- c) Can you give other examples of how healing took place in people's lives? Your own as well?