

# Treasure Hunt

- How does the meaning of “worship” change as we move through the Bible?
- What event marked that change, and why?
- Is Rev 3:9 an exception to the general NT meaning of the word?
- Why does it mean for the leper to “worship” the Lord Jesus?
- What is significant about the Lord’s response to that worship?
- How does the leper’s statement (8:2) contrast with the request for healing in Mark 9:22?
- What is remarkable about how our Lord cleanses the leper?

# Structure of Matt 8-9

## Healings and Miracles

8:2-4, Leper  
8:5-13, Centurion's Servant  
8:14-17, Peter's Mother-in-law  
(and others)

8:23-27, Calming the Sea  
8:28-34, Gadarene Demoniacs  
9:2-8, Palsied Man

9:18-26, Ruler's Daughter &  
Woman with Issue  
9:27-31, Two Blind Men  
9:32-34, Dumb Man

## Discipleship

8:18-22, The Reluctant Scribe

9:9-13, Call of Matthew  
9:14-17, Disciples of John

# “Worship”: Just Respect?

Before the exile:

Gen 23:7 And Abraham stood up, and **bowed** himself to the people of the land, even to the children of Heth.

1Sa 24:8 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and **bowed** himself.

After the captivity:

Dan 3:15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye **fall down** and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace;

Dan 3:18 be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor **worship** the golden image which thou hast set up.

Est 3:2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai **bowed not**, nor did him reverence.

Est 4:17 (LXX) thou knowest, Lord, that it is not in the insolence, nor haughtiness, nor love of glory, that I have done this, to refuse **obeisance** to the haughty Aman. For I would gladly have kissed the soles of his feet for the safety of Israel. But I have done this, that I might not set the glory of man above the glory of God: and I will not worship any one except thee, my Lord, and I will not do these things in haughtiness.

# “Worship” in the NT

61x in the NT, 15x to the Lord Jesus. Of the rest:

a) 27x to God.

b) 21x refused when offered to idols or men

c) 1x parable of the ungrateful servant in Matt 18:26

d) 1x Rev 3:9

Examples of b):

Act 10:25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped *him*. 26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

Rev 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. 9 Then saith he unto me, See *thou do it* not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

# The Exception in Rev 3:9?

*Exception:* Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and **worship** before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

*Explanation:* a reference to Isaiah (who is pre-exilic and thus can use the term to denote respect):

Is 45:14 Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and **they shall fall down unto thee**, they shall make supplication unto thee, *saying*, Surely God *is* in thee; and *there is* none else, *there is* no God.

Is 49:23 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: **they shall bow down to thee** with *their* face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet;

Is 60:14 The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee **shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet**; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

# Contrasting Requests

The Leper, Matt 8:2	The Father of the Demoniac Boy, Mark 9:22
<b>if thou wilt,</b>  <b>thou canst</b> make me clean (statement)	<b>if thou canst</b> do any thing,  <b>have compassion</b> on us, and <b>help</b> us (request)

# A Remarkable Touch

## 1. Leprosy makes the sufferer unclean:

Lev 13:44 He is a leprous man, he *is* **unclean**: the priest shall pronounce him utterly **unclean**; his plague *is* in his head. 45 And the leper in whom the plague *is*, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, **Unclean, unclean**. 46 All the days wherein the plague *shall be* in him he shall be defiled; he *is* **unclean**: he shall dwell alone; without the camp *shall* his habitation *be*.

## 2. Uncleanness is communicated by touch:

Lev 5:2 Or if a soul touch any unclean thing, whether *it be* a carcase of an unclean beast, or a carcase of unclean cattle, or the carcase of unclean creeping things, and *if* it be hidden from him; **he also shall be unclean, and guilty**. 3 Or if he touch the uncleanness of man, whatsoever uncleanness *it be* that a man shall be defiled withal, and it be hid from him; **when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty**.

## 3. Uncleanness excludes from worship

Lev 7:20 But the soul that **eateth of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings**, that *pertain* unto the LORD, having his uncleanness upon him, even that soul **shall be cut off from his people**. 21 Moreover the soul that shall touch any unclean *thing*, as the uncleanness of man, or *any* unclean beast, or any abominable unclean *thing*, and eat of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which *pertain* unto the LORD, even that soul shall be cut off from his people.

Hag 2:11 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests *concerning* the law, saying, 12 If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No. 13 Then said Haggai, If *one that is* unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.