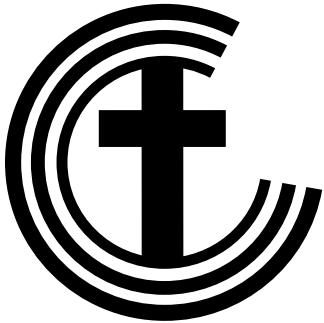


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Observation

1. Read the Passage Carefully:

- Matthew 8:23-27: Jesus calms the storm.
- Matthew 8:28-34: Jesus heals the demon-possessed men.
- Matthew 9:1-8: Jesus heals the paralytic.
- Matthew 9:9-13: Jesus calls Matthew and dines with sinners.
- Matthew 9:14-17: Question about fasting.



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2. Identify Key Events and Characters:

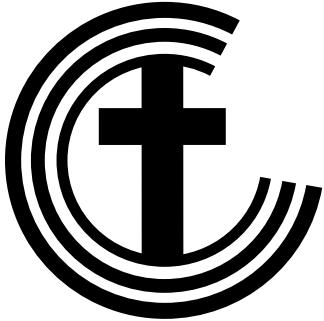
- Who are the main characters in each segment?
- What miracles and teachings are being recorded?
- How do the disciples respond to Jesus' actions?

3. Look for Repeated Words and Themes:

- Notice mentions of “faith,” “authority,” and “forgiveness.”
- Observe how Jesus interacts with different groups: disciples, demons, religious leaders, sinners.

4. Note Questions and Phrases:

- What do the disciples, scribes, Pharisees, and John’s disciples’ question about Jesus?
- What statements does Jesus make about faith, fear, authority, and new practices?



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Interpretation

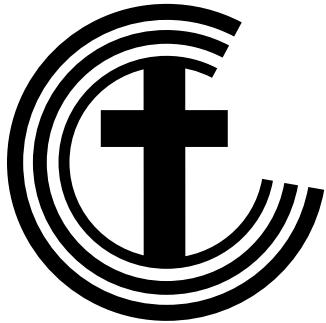
1. Understand the Context:

- Consider the cultural and historical backdrop of each event (e.g., Jewish expectations of the Messiah, religious customs).
- How do these factors influence people's reactions to Jesus?

2. Explore Key Themes:

A. Faith vs. Fear: Analyze how faith is contrasted with fear in the calming of the storm (Matthew 8:23-27).

- Cross References: Matthew 6:25-34; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25.



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B. Authority of Jesus: Examine Jesus' authority over natural elements and spiritual forces.

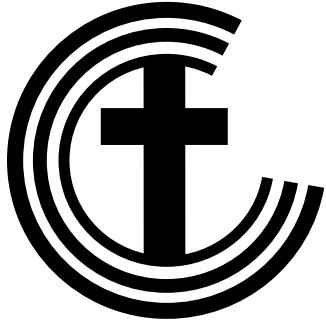
- Cross References: Mark 1:27; Luke 4:36; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39.

C. Forgiveness as Priority: Consider the forgiveness of sins before physical healing and Jesus' authority to forgive (Matthew 9:1-8).

- Cross References: Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26; Isaiah 35:5-6.

D. Mercy Over Sacrifice: Reflect on Jesus' teaching to the Pharisees about mercy, linking to Hosea 6:6 (Matthew 9:9-13).

- Cross References: Hosea 6:6; Romans 5:8.



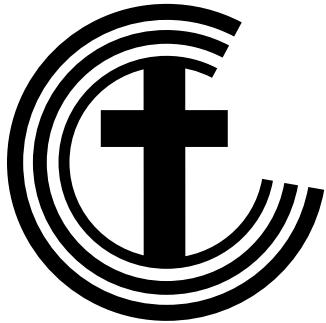
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E. New Covenant: Interpret the analogy of new wine in old wineskins (Matthew 9:14-17).

- Cross References: Luke 5:33-39; Mark 2:18-22; John 3:29.

3. Ask Interpretive Questions:

- What does each miracle reveal about Jesus' identity?
- How does Jesus challenge existing religious systems and practices?



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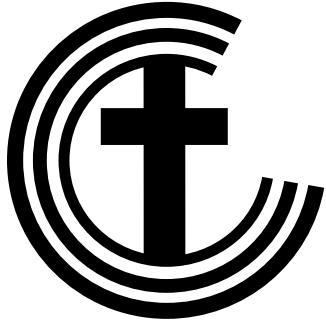
Application

1. Personal Reflection:

- How do you respond to life's storms? Do you trust in Jesus' authority over your fears?
- In what areas do you see a need for Jesus' forgiveness and authority in your life?

2. Character Development:

- Analyze your attitudes towards others, especially those society labels as "sinners." How can you follow Jesus' example of mercy?
- What old practices or beliefs might Jesus be calling you to reconsider or renew in light of His new covenant?



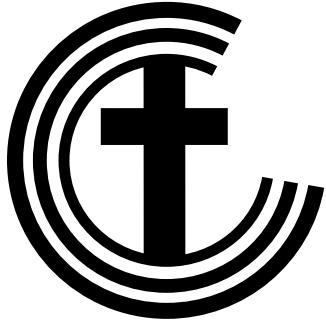
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3. Group Discussion or meet with a friend over coffee:

- Share experiences where faith was challenged and how you responded. Through this passage, How does has the Lord communicated that he desire to work a new response to trusting Him.
- Discuss how Jesus' teachings in these passages can impact your church or community, and your involvement in the community.

4. Practical Steps:

- Identify practical ways to exhibit mercy in your daily life.
- Consider setting aside time for fasting, focusing on your relationship with God rather than as a ritualistic practice.



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Prayer:

- Pray for Insight: Ask God for wisdom to understand these passages deeply.
- Pray for Transformation: Request help to grow in faith and trust in Jesus amid life's challenges.
- Pray for Action: Seek guidance on implementing the lessons learned into everyday life.

Use this guide to explore the richness of Matthew 8:23-9:17, allowing God's Word to transform your understanding and actions.