

Holy Vessels *Restoration*

Matthew is replete with healing stories – broken people who come to Jesus for help and wholeness. Those who suffered from leprosy, the blind, the possessed, and the dying all were very aware of their hopeless plight. Our hearts cry out for their suffering. But there were others who came to Jesus with a different agenda. The ones who believed themselves to be whole, to be healthy, to be people of deep faith. We watch these Pharisees, these teachers, these hypocrites’ carp and complain about the Savior and our hearts cry for justice, little knowing that we are more like the latter than we are the former. We too need the touch of a powerful God who can bring us wholeness within, but first, we must be reminded just how far from the path we have wandered.

Matthew 8:18–27

1. You weren't created for _____!
2. Complacency is a dangerous place to be ... if you don't keep moving forward, you won't learn life's _____
_____ ... let alone its _____.
3. The cure for Christian Complacency is to take _____
_____.

My Count Me In! Commitment

- I'll be "here" next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend

The next step of faith I need to take is in the area of

- Finances
 - Relationships
 - Discipleship
 - Personal Hang-ups or Addictions
- I need help taking the next step

Digging Deeper

Week of March 21, 2021

Holy Vessels: Restoration

Scripture: Matthew 8:18–27

Introduction: One of the more fascinating jobs out there is a painting restorationist. These professionals take old paintings and painstakingly remove the thin layer of dust and grime that's accumulated on the canvas. Even though most of these old paintings have been lovingly cared for in an environmentally friendly museum or gallery, their vibrant colors and strokes fade because of time and culture's atmosphere. These paintings aren't unlike those who have hung around the church over the years ... though deep down, our enthusiasm for faith continues, we seem to pick up the dust and grime from our culture that wears us down to a state of luster-less-ness.

1. Read Matthew 8:18–22. Why do you suppose Jesus decided to leave Capernaum and travel to the other side of the lake? What reasons did some of Jesus' "disciples" give for not following him across the lake?
2. Although the crowd was "following Jesus" and some (many?) were considered to be Jesus' disciples, why do you think the majority chose to remain on the shore?
3. Read 8:22–27. Jesus chastised the disciples for not having much faith. What do you think Jesus had expected them to do in the face of the storm?
4. The disciples would have to face the storms of life again in Matthew 14:22–32 because they didn't learn the life lesson in this first storm. What life lesson do you think Jesus was trying to teach them?
5. Dr. Bill said that if you don't keep moving forward in faith, you'll not learn life's lessons or its secrets. What are some life lessons you've learned by taking a step of faith?
6. We experience life's greatest breakthroughs when we take a leap of faith and face the storms of our resistance. What kind of a breakthrough do you need most in your life right now? Financial? Relational? Emotional? Spiritual?
7. What step of faith do you need to take right now? What's keeping you from taking that step? How can the church support you in making that leap of faith?