

Matthew 8:14-22 - Authority to command commitment

1) Jesus is the Son of Man and suffering servant – follow him

(v14-17)

2) But don't be too quick

(v18-20)

3) And don't be too slow

(v21-22)

For further discussion

- v14-17: How does Jesus further demonstrate his authority here? How does this support his first reference to himself in the gospel as "Son of Man" (v20)?
- Why is v17 a surprising verse for Matthew to choose? What is the connection between Jesus as "suffering servant" (fulfilling Isaiah 53) and "Son of Man" (fulfilling Daniel 7 etc)?
- v18-20: In what ways is the teacher of the law too hasty? What has he not understood about Jesus, according to Jesus? Have we understood this? What will it mean for us?
- v21-22: If this man's father was actually due to be buried imminently, he would have been at home not out by a lake. What might be implied by his request? What lies behind it? In 15:3-9 it is clear Jesus takes honouring parents seriously and has little time for those who break the 5th commandment in the name of "religion". What then does he mean in v22?
- What might stop or distract us from following Jesus today? What would Jesus have us do? What does that look like?