



# SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE POWER OF THE KING

Matthew 8:1-9:38 • Lesson Four

## READY

- If you could personally witness any miracle that Jesus performed, which supernatural event would you pick and why?
- What is the most powerful athlete you have ever seen perform? How did they become so powerful?

## SET

### Context of Matthew 8:1-9:38

In chapters 8 and 9 Matthew dramatically sets forth another qualification of messiahship: Jesus' divine power. These two chapters are critical to understanding the life and ministry of Christ. Matthew's purpose in recording these miracles, like Jesus' purpose in performing them, was to confirm His deity and His claim to be the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world.

### Keys to Text

*Disease and Jesus' Healing:* In New testament times, disease was rampant, and medical science as we know it did not exist. If a person survived a serious disease, it was usually because the malady had run its course. The list of diseases was long, and life expectancy was short. Many diseases are mentioned in Scripture. When Jesus healed, He did so with a word or a touch, without gimmicks, formulas, or fanfare. He healed instantaneously, with no drawn-out period of waiting or gradual restoration.

## GO

### Read Matthew 8:1-9:38

1. How many different kinds of illnesses do you count in Matthew 8-9?
2. Identify the different types of miracles Jesus performed.
3. With what attitude and beliefs did the centurion approach Jesus (8:5-13)?
4. How did Jesus respond to the large crowds who were clamoring for His blessings (8:18-22)?
5. Where was Matthew when Jesus called him to follow (9:9)?
6. The Pharisees begin to notice Jesus. What was their complaint (9:10-13)?
7. What do you learn about Jesus from His words and actions?
8. What was His mission and purpose?
9. Why did Jesus heal the paralytic? What was the result?

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When the Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Kevin Kolb was injured it became an opportunity for Michael Vick to redeem himself with the fans when he accounted for all four touchdowns last week in his first start for the team. His coach said, "He is possibly the hottest quarterback in the NFL right now."

People during Jesus' time seldom had means to alleviate diseases or injuries. That's part of the reason His miracles brought such immediate and widespread attention. How might God receive the glory from a person who is never healed? How about someone who loses his starting position in football like Kevin Kolb due to an injury? Where specifically in your sports do you need to trust in the power of God? How can you demonstrate that trust today?