

Working With The Voice Transcript

WWTV Episode 020

Excuses, Costs, Storms, and Misunderstandings

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Hello Listeners! This is Juliet Mee, your host of the Working With The Voice podcast. This podcast isn't just information on the bible. It's a course designed to help you learn to communicate with the Holy Spirit directly. Once the Holy Spirit revealed himself to me, I expressed that I really didn't want to know about Jesus, and was told gently that my feelings of animosity towards Jesus came from the fact that I had no true understanding of who Jesus was or what He had done, and that I still harbored feelings that it was possible that the story of Jesus was just a myth. All of that was true. The Holy Spirit then began to teach me, line by line, about Jesus through the actual scriptures and through reading other people's investigative work and learning about their experiences. During this time of teaching, I realized the book of Matthew was a step by step orderly training in the skills that are required for people who are able to be used by the Holy Spirit. It is important to note that this was done, I was developing what I call the "Daily Practice". The use of the processes identified in the Daily Practice were like tuning in a radio with one knob that specifically reduced static and found the right channel for me to listen to. The other knob increased the volume. Learning through the scripture combined with the Daily Practice involved me in the process of co-creation with the Holy Spirit. The more time I spent in the process of the Daily Practice, the more that conflict and drama in my life decreased, while the voice of the Holy Spirit became louder and more clear. It wasn't just happening in my head, it was occurring in my life, in more real events of synchronicity. If you haven't begun the Daily Practice work, please download the free materials on the website workingwiththevoice.com and start using it today. You will see a world of difference unfold right in front of your own eyes.

In the scriptural teachings, we are in the middle of the book of Matthew Chapter 8. Jesus has just performed three specific healings and in the last lines we are told that people were bringing all sorts of conditions to Jesus. He made all the demons leave. He healed all the sick.

This material places us directly in dangerous waters. Spirits? Come on that's the crap crazy people talk about. Dismiss these parts. They are ridiculous. Healing all the sick? No one believes that Jesus could heal all the sick people in the world today. Good people pray to live, follow the instructions they feel are right for them, and although many of them get well, at the end of the day, everyone dies. The "everyone dies" part of this isn't the problem. The problem is that people get sick or injured. They suffer before their death. They wonder what they did or are doing wrong. They look and do not find. What kind of fairy tale basis is that for a religion?

The question about miracles, including spontaneous healing, is one that must be answered by every person. Spoiler alert: I now believe that the gospels were accurate representations of real events if you understand them in context. I believe Jesus worked miracles then and now. Additionally, there is a supernatural force of evil that operates through a variety of methods. I hope that you know by now that I do not expect anyone, including myself, to just accept that statement at face value. "The bible said it, I believe it, that settles it" isn't my style. I believe in science and I also have experienced some unusual things that I consider to be phenomenon. They aren't explainable through scientific methods yet. Many of these types of things fit biblical explanation which means we will find their true scientific basis in the

future. Other Christians have adopted a default way of studying scripture that disregards anything that doesn't fit their view of reality. They throw out the parts of the bible where everyone was healed because it's too good to be true. They throw out the part about demons because they don't recall ever seeing one. They think that these sections must mean what we now call mental illness or neurological disease, which is potentially partially true. They then throw those parts out because now it's a healing. There is another easy default. It allows people to believe the gospels are true and accurate. These people believe that miracles were real at the time of Jesus but they have ceased now.

The questions of miracles and healings were a conundrum for me. I hadn't formed an opinion and did not understand the answer at all. Here's how the Holy Spirit wove the information into an understanding for me. I was in a deep process of learning. I was still closing down my business at this time, which for most people would have been very sad and scary. I was happy even though I was unable to easily discuss why. I had no acceptable language yet to discuss the born again experience with people who thought it was a bunch of BS. I got up at 4:00 each morning to dive into the biblical information. I was like a person who had found an ancient treasure map and knew that the gold was still out there. After I had studied for four to five hours, I would go out into the world and encounter all sorts of situations and people who told me of their situations. My new understanding of the world was fascinating and it was just like the saying says, "Everything was made new". I would remember something from the past and the new understanding I received from the combination of the voice of the Holy Spirit and reading of the morning scriptures was energizing. It was like a cascade of events all at once that I would have to pay attention to match up the situation and the understanding I was in the process of receiving. Just like everyone else, I saw good people who were sick or in pain every day. I was curious about this. I knew many of them prayed to get well and that their issues weren't punishments. The questions I had weren't specific, they were more like, "How can it be that in the bible people got healed and these people aren't healed?" At the same time I had a neck and pain that was sharp and debilitating and moving from being only on one side to being on both. I had gone to the best body workers and chiropractors that I knew, and it wasn't changing at all. For some reason I had placed the condition in the arena that was my responsibility only. I never even thought to ask for healing or any other information about it from the Holy Spirit. I thought of it almost like I think of getting a haircut. I knew what to do and didn't need help in either of those processes. One morning I met a friend of mine for breakfast. This friend was a true believer Christian and she regularly identified that she was waiting on God to heal her very serious medical condition. It was uncomfortable for me to watch her order a meal that would not be recommended for anyone, much less a person who was under such an extreme medical diagnosis. I had stopped the advice routine with her long ago. She had never followed anyone's dietary advice, including her own. A miraculous healing from Jesus was the only thing she was looking for and since he ate a lot of bread and drank wine, she could too. After I left there, I went home to rest. My pain level from the right side of my neck was high and it was creeping into the left side. Three unconnected thoughts ran through my mind. One was, "Is it time for me to stop the natural methods to deal with this pain and get an MRI?" and the other was "How does God heal a person with a complex condition like my friend has, is it all at once or does it happen in parts?" And the third was, "Is this process I am going through going to bankrupt me? I don't know how I'm going to pay for an MRI, much less a neck surgery if I need one." Again, I was absolutely blind to the fact that I had disconnected my pain experience from anything that could be dealt with spiritually. As I lay down to rest, I clearly heard the Holy Spirit say, "The purpose for everything you are going through right now will be revealed. I am healing your neck right now to give you the answer about healing, and to serve as evidence of the greater good that you will experience if you continue to believe in me." Instantly the terrible pain on the right side of my neck was gone. I literally jumped out of bed like I'd heard a huge noise. I couldn't believe it. It was too good to be true but I knew what I'd heard, and I had no neck pain on the right side.

The right side neck pain has never returned and the pain that was much less on the left was used to show me the fact that sometimes we are healed through a series of events that involve co-creation which is to say, my involvement. That side will sometimes give me a mild twinge as a barometer to take care of myself. The right side has never hurt me again. It was as if it was made perfect all at once.

To get the right answer, you have to form the right question. As soon as I formed the right questions, “Does healing from God occur all at once or in parts?” and also, “Will this process bankrupt me?” I received the answers immediately in a very unique way. Forming the right question is a necessary skill, one that is vitally important for you to receive the understanding. If you haven’t received an answer make sure you have a clear question, the one you really want to understand.

When you study the gospels, it’s important to think about the whole section that you are listening to, and then to look back at what concepts were just revealed or explained. The material makes sense if you look at it through the eyes of the writer. It isn’t just a string of stories; it is a chronology of consciousness unfolding, God revealing Himself to us in specific terms. Each of the gospels tells stories in slightly different ways and has a different chronology for the order of the events. A story may be exactly the same in both Matthew and Mark, but the reason behind what they tell and why they tell it is different and should be seen that way. Matthew is first and we have repeatedly said that his audience was the Jewish people of the time and the message was that Jesus was the Messiah, but what we haven’t gone as deeply into is that this concept that the book is a curriculum, a series of lessons that contain information that progress from one concept into another. Each of the events is a building block for the skills required to understand and apply the knowledge. To gain proficiency in the skill you must understand the building block in its context.

There are some people who won’t do anything other than read a story and without any additional information, they think they know all about it. They quote the words specifically without an understanding of the context or the preceding material, and well, it’s kind of embarrassing. In these times where technologies have changed rapidly, I assume that in the not so distant future someone will read a story about a person having to stay at home all day waiting for an important phone call and they won’t understand why that would have happened. They might go looking all over the place in the preceding material or the material in the story that followed for an explanation. What do we all know? That land lines were the only way most people communicated until about the year 2000. They stayed home because they didn’t have a mobile phone yet. It’s no more complex than that.

There are many things in the bible that the Jews would have been clear about. It doesn’t mean they were right, it just provides context. We now know that what is called leprosy in the bible isn’t the same thing we refer to now as Hansen’s Disease. We now know that some of the things that people attributed to supernatural forces or demons were actually symptoms of neurological or bacterial disorders that can be treated or healed by medications. But they didn’t know that then. So does that mean that we should chuck all the information from the bible about healings and supernatural forces out the window? I say a resounding NO! Work to understand them. They provide information that is directly able to be used to change the outcome of your life. I’m working to create a renewed conversation around this paradoxical material.

- Its new and old.
- Its superficial and deep.
- It’s miraculous and common.
- I lived a long time without it and I can’t live that way ever again.

In chapters 5-7 Jesus has given the Sermon on the Mount that emphasized his expanded moral teachings. He emphasized a different standard than the traditional Jewish teachers. God was as interested in the interior attitude of people as he was in the exterior actions. This was a higher standard, and the people weren't meeting the lower standard. Jesus was telling them to do better, and that is rarely a welcome message. He knew human nature, and human nature asks "What's in this for me" in almost every single conscious or subconscious decision we make. Following Jesus requires a decision and normally when we ask "What's in it for me" the answer comes back "nothing very good". So Jesus's potential followers of his time would have asked the same question and gotten exactly the same answer because of their circumstances. So directly after he gave the sermon, we get one of the most important answers even though it's not the only one. Jesus can heal you. I am not going to go into the full method of physical healing through spiritual means in this episode, but if you are interested, Gary Carpenter of Tulsa, Oklahoma explains it very well. We appeal to different audiences. He sounds different than I do, and we don't agree on 100% of the things we believe. I do agree 100% with his healing the body information. Gary uses the King James Version of the bible and his method of what he calls "Pottawatomie County" preaching filled with stories from the healing ministries of the previous century's evangelical leaders. Gary and I both focus on teaching you how to speak to the Holy Spirit, but Gary has a tremendous amount of material due to his many years of work in this field. It's the real deal and it works.

Getting back to today, Jesus gives the instructions for what a person is going to have to do to be meeting the standard then he first shows the physical healing that is possible through him. Consider this; almost everyone has something physically wrong with them to one degree or another. 70% of all people in the United States take at least one prescription medication. I have no idea how many people treat their body with other substances and methods like over the counter medications, herbs, surgery, and body based manual therapies. I do, and even though my condition isn't major, I am glad to have substances that work. For me, it's better living through chemistry. Imagine back in Jesus's times. They had no access to the things we know from the scientific method, and surgery, well let's just say you didn't want one if it was available. You can be sure that before and during Jesus's life people prayed for healings and got them, and you can be sure that there were some form of healers and exorcists in the communities who performed rituals, encouraged the use of healing substances, and who also had the ability to heal. Almost everyone involved in the academic study of Jesus, regardless of their level of skepticism, agrees that the people who were around Jesus saw the things he did as miraculous. Most all of his healings were done not with prayer, but with a command. He usually gave an instantaneous healing although sometimes he touched them or commanded the force behind the problem to remove itself. He applied spit and mud to the person a couple times and there was at least one time where the person had to go wash themselves. It was all very simple and very different from what the people had ever seen. Jesus healed deliberately and had reasons for what and how they were done. He refused to perform miracles on demand, but he would use the ones he had performed as credentials proving who he was, and under what power and authority he represented. So healings being described right after the sermon answered the question that hadn't been overtly addressed, what's in it for me???

Why healings? Jesus could have chosen a lot of different things to base his ministry on. In fact, most of the people wanted him to come in and miraculously change the power structure under which they lived. There are simple and complex reasons for Jesus to choose healings, and these explanations are in no particular order of importance.

First, if you have ever watched someone you love struggle with an injury or an illness, you know the most basic reason Jesus healed. He loved people and had compassion for them. He didn't want them to suffer.

Next, it produced disciples and he used it as a recruitment tool. Jesus performed all types of basic healings but those aren't the types that are singled out. The types of healings that are singled out were ones that people would go out of their way to find the solution for. You can be assured that once the healing had been received or witnessed, the person would be much more likely to buy into the higher moral code that he presented and follow in his footsteps.

Remember also that people felt that illnesses came from God and were a sign that He was unhappy with them. Healings were a physical symbol as well as a result of the forgiveness that Jesus brought these people.

There are even deeper reasons that healing was important in Jesus's ministry. In Matthew Chapter 4 which we covered in episode 008, we are introduced to the battle between Jesus and Satan directly after Jesus is baptized. Jesus is Supernatural Good personified and Satan is Supernatural Evil Personified. This is discussed with the help of the Jungian analyst Robert Moore in Episode 009. Jesus's success in the supernatural battle of good and evil is symbolized by his healings.

I'm going to loop back to what I said in the beginning of this episode to reinforce the idea that the events in Matthew are presented in an order that signifies the chronological process of consciousness, an unfolding of the way our minds work when presented with the whole of Jesus's teachings. There are many people who have spent their entire career studying all the events in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to determine which order events actually occurred. Sometimes that is important, but I don't intend to put any of that information in until after we begin to study the book of Mark.

What is important about the next event that Matthew recounts following the healings is important due to what it reveals about human psychology. Once you have been given the outline of the Jesus's expanded beliefs and their application to your thinking, it's normal to ask yourself, what is in this for me? You are given a vision of healing which reveals many things. Now is the time to decide about following Jesus.

The Cost of Following Jesus

18 When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. 19 Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." 20 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." 21 Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 22 But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

All of Jesus's teaching was free, and a person's social status didn't matter for their inclusion in the kingdom of God even though Jesus preached that it wasn't easy for rich people to follow his teachings. Knowing they could receive healing if they could just get access to him, they came in large groups and we will see that they also approached him in unorthodox ways. When the crowds got to be overwhelming, Jesus would move to another town. Today He is preparing to cross a lake due to the crowd, when it is reported that two people came looking to follow him. Many commentaries that I have read believe that money was involved in both of these offers to follow Jesus even though it is not directly said that way.

Throughout Jesus's ministry he clearly believes that how a person looks at money and traditional security is the best way to judge what is truly going on in their hearts. There are lots of times when Jesus speaks about both generosity and stinginess, and he was against seeing the storing up of wealth as any type of security. We have gone through the ideas behind Jewish charity towards teachers and the poor in past episodes and clearly Jesus and his disciples lived upon charity. His followers would have provided them their lodging and their food. You can do an internet search on who gave Jesus money and get tons of high quality articles about his financial backing, but if he was secretly rich and storing up more than he needed, then he would be a hypocrite, which we know he wasn't. We have absolutely no record of Jesus ever requesting payment for anything, especially healing, but you can be sure that the other healers of his time anticipated payment, and if they could heal a disease or exorcise an evil spirit, you can imagine that they would have been well paid for this service. It would have been normal for Jesus to be paid to heal, even though he wasn't.

We have here Christ's managing of the two different ways that people offered to follow Jesus, one is a bit too quick and the other is a bit too slow. His instructions are adapted to each of them, and designed for our use today. The first person who is offering to follow Jesus was a "teacher of the law", a scribe. This is a person you would think that had skills that Jesus would want and need. He was used to copying scrolls and would be able to take sermon notes as well as expound on them for the Jewish audience. But we can ascertain from Jesus's answer to him that his heart isn't in the right place. Jesus lets him know that there's no worldly treasure for him if he comes. After the scribe says he will follow Jesus anywhere he goes, Jesus lets him know that foxes and birds have more than He has. We can assume the scribe had seen the level of healings that Jesus performed and thought that if he tagged his wagon to Jesus, there would be a lot of money coming in to everyone associated with his ministry.

Wow. How much do I want to say on this subject. It's not just today that people have attempted to get rich off of Christianity. It's happened from day one. There is a paradox here. You receive so much from Christianity, healing, and many other very good things, but Jesus himself lived as a poor man. There are people who would tell you that He was secretly rich, and I actually believed that for a very long time. I believed that since He could have whatever He wanted, of course He would eat great food and wear great clothes. Sure he didn't have his own house, but who wants all that maintenance anyway? I have always had friends who have shared their great properties with me; in fact I'm in one right now! (I mean I really am...) But that's not what Jesus did. Jesus came in as a fully human person; in fact, in this scripture he calls himself, "The Son of Man" so that you are clear which position he is reflecting. Jesus will refer to himself regularly as the Son of Man showing that his full identification with the human condition. As the Son of God, he is royalty. The one true King. But He came in to bring God to everyone, and so, although He was fully capable of coming in as a wealthy, powerful person, he came in as a poor man, one who owned nothing and wasn't trying to build wealth like the scribe. The prosperity gospel that is preached today by televangelists and others has significant theological problems, and I have a deep problem with it because it gives a double message. It is true that God will provide for you and it is true that He gives his believers very good lives, but that isn't a reason to follow him. If you are looking for that kind of life without a change in your core internal self, you will not get it. Christianity is not a bottle with a genie inside that you can do a couple things and get your big three wishes for health, wealth, and fame. Can Christians be wealthy? Of course! Can Christians be healthy? Of course. Can Christians get famous? Of course. Figuring this all out takes time though. It's not something you understand with one episode of a podcast or one article read.

When the scribe offered to follow Jesus, I think Jesus saw his heart, and answered to his secret thoughts of benefitting himself off the ministry but that may be untrue and a bit judgmental on my part. There is

another way to look at it. Additionally, the person is identified as a “scribe” not a disciple, which makes his professed desire to be a disciple to have come on him suddenly. As if he maybe got swept up in the moment. There are a lot of churches, teachers, and evangelists who seem to want people to do just this, get swept up in the moment and say they love Jesus and want to devote their lives to him. But I doubt that this is what Jesus wants. If we are thinking of following Jesus, of being Christians, we are directed to *sit down and count the cost*. In addition, if you want to know why people do not just jump on the bandwagon of the happy-clappy Christian culture, it’s also important to know that the most honest and serious people think these things through carefully. ***There is a cost to not accepting Christianity***, but there is also a cost to being a true Christian. For some like myself, we have to be willing to give up titles, respect in our communities, as well as many ways of living that we value. We have to be willing to give every worldly thing up, even though ultimately we usually don’t end up losing anything. But we have to be ***really willing***, and Jesus is speaking to that “too eager to be a follower” person here too.

There is a second person who has a conversation with Jesus about following him, and I never really understood it completely in the past. This is where the man, who is a disciple of Jesus, asks Jesus to allow him to go home and bury his father before following him. Jesus tells him to let the dead bury the dead. Ouch Jesus! I always thought that meant that Jesus was telling him to leave his dead father unburied, and I couldn’t get that. But on simple reflection of the interaction, I realize now that the man’s father probably isn’t dead, potentially isn’t even close. Who knows exactly the reasoning behind his comment? It might involve the son feeling a sense of duty to the father, but it also might entail wanting to go home and wait for his father to die, collect the inheritance, and ***then*** follow Jesus. Its kind of like when people say, “When I retire I’m going to get an RV and then I’ll do my work for God. Right now, I’m just too busy.” These things are just easy excuses given by people who really aren’t willing and they work because people accept them on their face value. Who could expect a man with a dying father to leave him and traipse off with Jesus? So Jesus’s answer identifies that it is an excuse that a person without enough passion and fire in the belly would give. He says, “Let the dead bury the dead” but what he means it leave the spiritually dead to hang out with one another. Don’t burden yourself unnecessarily with them. Jesus is telling this man to get his priorities straight and put God above everything and everyone. These next two sections show us that God is in charge of everything, not just people’s bodies but winds, waves, and demons.

Jesus Calms a Storm

23 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. 24 Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" 26 He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. 27 The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Again, this verse to me is related to the evolving consciousness of people who choose to go with Jesus. The people with Jesus are his disciples and we know that many of them were fishermen. They were used to boats, and to being on them in times of storms, and they would be very familiar with this lake. They leave the crowd and the two potential followers, and out of the blue, a huge storm, big enough to sink the boat comes on. But we know that Jesus created this storm for their sake. This is the only time we read of Jesus sleeping in the whole bible. We know he does all sort of human things, he watches, prays sometimes all night, walks, travels, and eats, but this is the only time we find him sleeping. What does this symbolize? It’s easy. Jesus wasn’t sleeping to be refreshed, He was sleeping so the disciples would come and wake him. Once you have decided to follow Jesus, you have to realize that you have to expect that there will be storms, and that going to Jesus with your concerns is the way to get calm. In

fact most people I know once they turn towards Christianity, all hell breaks loose in their life. No it isn't the evil one coming after them. It is the sweeping changes that their new life requires, and these are usually about faith more than they are about scary realities, but when we are in the midst of some of those scary realities, it feels like Jesus called us then went back to sleep when we agreed to come on the journey!

Once they woke Jesus, it says he "rebuked" the winds. That means He firmly told the storm to stop it. There are previous times in the bible where powerful prophets command waters and each used a different object. Moses commanded the waters of the Red Sea to split with a rod, Joshua commanded the waters with the ark of the covenant, Elisha used the prophet's mantle or cape, but Jesus didn't use an object. He commanded the waters with a word, and there was a great calm. The power of the word is greater than you can ever imagine if you have the power of the Holy Spirit to perform the action. It says that the disciples marveled. They now understood that not only people and diseases did what he said, the winds and waves obeyed him.

Jesus Restores Two Demon Possessed Men

28 When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, [3] two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. 29 "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" 30 Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. 31 The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs." 32 He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. 33 Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

This is one of the most interesting visuals in Jesus's entire ministry. Remember, we are looking at this material as the process of the evolution of consciousness. Jesus and the disciples leave the boat after the storm, and they are met by two men who are possessed by demons. Put aside the fact that you might not believe in demon possession and go with the story. The men live in a graveyard around tombs, and are so violent that no one can go near them. These demons speak to Jesus and they say an interesting thing to him. They shout, "What do you want with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" They address Jesus in a way that says that they know who Jesus is. People are not generally calling Jesus the Son of God because Jesus has not yet chosen to reveal this publicly. It was announced to the people when he was baptized by John the Baptist, and we know that Satan knew who he was, and he wasn't successful in winning Jesus over when he tempted him in the desert. When Jesus healed the man with leprosy earlier in the chapter, He specifically told him not to tell anyone who had healed him. There was going to be an appointed time, and this wasn't it. But this story shows that the world of evil spirits was aware that Jesus was in their midst. These demons liked to hang out around the dead in the graveyard. Demons have no desire to do anything but kill and destroy, and it can be assumed that there were people in the tombs who they had killed. They were not happy that Jesus was on their turf, and they knew it wasn't the time yet when they would be driven out of the world. They knew that Jesus would not have left the demons in charge of the men, so they begged to be taken out of the men and allowed to go into a herd of pigs that were in the adjoining field. No doubt that they had watched the owners of the pigs taking care of them, feeding them, and preparing them for slaughter. Remember that pigs are unclean animals and that no Jewish person would have even touched them, much less eaten them. These pigs were being prepared for Romans. Jesus had an easy decision to make, leave the demons in control of the men or put them in control of pigs? So Jesus told

them to go into the pigs. Since all demons want to do is to destroy, they gladly went into the pigs that were intended for their owners to sell and make money from, and then they ran into the lake and the pigs died in the water. It doesn't mean the demons died too. The demons don't die when their host dies. Demons kill and live. So the men were saved from the terrible torture they had been under and Jesus should have been welcomed into their town because of it. Everyone who was sick could have been healed. But the demons had killed the pigs in a way that made it look like Jesus did it, which he didn't. The townspeople were afraid that Jesus would cause them to lose their livelihood and so they pleaded with him to leave.

To go back to the normal progressions of consciousness represented here in Matthew Chapter 8 that directly followed the Sermon on the Mount. People heard the message in the sermon. They naturally want to know what is in it for them, which Jesus gave an example of by showing them that they could be healed. He healed the man with leprosy, the centurion's servant, and Peter's mother in law. The message was backed up with credentials. People brought many to him to be healed and he healed them all. More than one person considered following Jesus but they weren't willing to give up their current lives. They had hidden desires, conditions and excuses that they wanted to present first. Jesus doesn't comply. He confirms that they will have to be willing to leave everything they know and agree to be only provided for in the way that God sees fit. They would have to follow in faith that God will take care of them if they do. So the true disciples leave with Jesus and encounter a great storm that seems like it will kill them all but when they ask Jesus to do something about it, he calms the storm and enhances their faith. He then does another great deed which requires an understanding that people are the most important thing, much more important than our livelihoods, and he removes demons from two tortured souls. Before they can see the good he brings, the people around misunderstand the scene and lay the blame on Jesus and are prejudiced against the message in a way that makes it impossible for them to even receive a part of it. There was a misunderstanding all the way through this half of Chapter 8. Stick with us and we will show you some new things that are beginning to happen in the next Chapter, Chapter 9. I hope that you will make the decision to follow Jesus on the path of Christianity. Maybe you need to count the cost, or maybe you need to understand that nothing is bad here, and that Jesus isn't sleeping. Clear up your misunderstandings, and you will be glad you did!

I'm Juliet Mee and this is Working With The Voice. I'd like to again thank Amy Waldrop for reading the scriptures, and thank you for listening.