

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 1

MATTHEW 8:1-4

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 14th at 8am

All Men are welcome. More info at:
moe@ourelement.org

ALL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, January 22nd at 1pm

Quick business meeting that covers budget and
where we're headed in 2017

REDEMPTION GROUPS

Begin February 3rd

Learn more and fill out an
application at

ourelement.org/redemption

Last day to apply is January 15th

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

AUTHORITY OVER LEPROSY

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:28-29

Matthew 5:3-12

John 7:45-46

John 14:27

John 11:4

John 9

Matthew 8:1-4

2 Corinthians 12:9

Mark 1:41

Matthew 11:1-6

January 8, 2017

www.ourelement.org

AUTHORITY

OVER LEPROSY

WEEK 1 SERMON NOTES

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount Matthew talks about people being astonished because Jesus spoke as one who had authority (*Matthew 7:28-29 And when Jesus finished these sayings the crowds were astonished at his teaching for he was teaching them as one who had authority*). In the following two chapters (Matthew 8-9) he goes on to give us 14 ways Jesus proved this authority by His actions. In Matthew 8-9, Matthew is trying to get us to see that it is not only the authority of a King, but also the authority of our great God.

In America today we seem to have a problem with authority because we don't like anyone having the ability to say what is right or wrong for our lives other than ourselves.

What comes to mind when you think of authority?

Read Matthew 8:1-4.

Leprosy is technically a chronic bacterial disease that usually starts in the skin and nerves of the hands and feet (though sometimes it starts in the lining of the nose). Anyone can get leprosy, but children seem to be more susceptible than adults. Doctors today are still not fully sure how the leprosy germ is spread, but household and prolonged close contact seems to be the key. People with leprosy in Jesus' day were confined outside the city limits, many times next to the city dump. In the religious people's eyes leprosy was the physical counterpart to the spiritual problem of sin; it was the model disease for sin.

How is leprosy a physical representation of what sin does to us spiritually?

In this story, the leper does something astonishing; He worships Jesus. Out of all the crowds that heard the Sermon on the Mount this one man sees Jesus for who He really is (or is the only one willing to acknowledge what he believed about Jesus). The leper lays on the ground, and kisses Jesus' feet like a king. This man was so aware of his brokenness that he did not offer any pretense to Jesus, he simply accepted the truth, "if you will you can make me clean."

Do you ever struggle to have faith in Jesus's authority?

Do you think there are some things that God is not able to change?

How do you define Worship? What does it look like for you to worship God?

Often times when we read scriptures and see the miracles that were performed we think they were great, but they could never happen to us. Sometimes our hope can be profoundly challenged because the miraculous doesn't make sense in the world we live in (which is precisely why they are miracles in the first place). Like the leper in this story, we need to be a people who are aware of our brokenness and our need for cleansing/healing, but also understand that Jesus does hold healing in His hands. We need to remember that we might be called to physical or emotional pain and Jesus may heal us or not, but we need to respond like this person with leprosy and simply say, "If you will Lord."

How in your life has God used pain to reveal his glory?

Have you experienced God's healing?

Where in your life needs healing?

Do you believe God can heal you?

We struggle to believe that Jesus is bigger, greater, and more powerful than what we are going through. We must have faith in Jesus' authority and believe that Jesus is more powerful than our problems. To see healing, we need to have faith in His ability to heal us. God wants us to trust Him with everything; this is more than just believing things about Him, but believing in Him for everything. That's how we will see healing of all kinds - physical, relational, emotional, and financial. We must ask for healing and live in the truth of God's power and authority over our lives (and over what needs healing). We must stop grasping so strongly onto what we consider to be "ours" and simply trust Him.

Sometimes our healing will not look like we expect or want it to, but God loves us and cares deeply for us. Trusting in Jesus means trusting in His wisdom and timing as well. Let us become a people that believe in God's authority and confidently ask for healing. God is willing, He has the authority, and He cares for us deeply.