

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S2E4

Title - What Is A Mamzer?

Description - Have you ever heard the term “Mamzer” before? What is a Mamzer? Today we’ll look at scripture and set out to define the term Mamzer.

Mamzer - illegitimate child, an outcast, the overlooked.

Mamzer is used two times in the old testament.

Deuteronomy 23:2 - No one of illegitimate birth may enter the LORD’s assembly; none of his descendants, even to the tenth generation, may enter the LORD’s assembly.

Even Jesus was accused of being a mamzer, one born of sexual immorality or illegitimate birth.

John 8:41

“You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.”

So while it doesn’t have to directly connect to their birth, Matthew is going to teach that the Mamzer is the overlooked, the outcast, and these are the ones that Jesus is going to try to reach. Those that even the religious of the day would reject, Jesus would seek out.

So it’s no surprise that after Jesus’s teachings on the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew 5-7, that the very first encounter he has is with a man who has leprosy. A Mamzer.

Jesus never heals by chance or by happenstance. Jesus didn’t just heal because He could. His healings always had meaning behind them.

In Matthew 8:1-4, Jesus heals a man with leprosy right after the sermon on the mount.

No Jew had been healed of leprosy since Moses healed Miriam. Naman had been healed by baptizing in the Jordan, but he was a Gentile.

Jews taught that healing of leprosy would be a messianic miracle.

Matthew 8:1-4

When he came down from the mountain, large crowds followed him. ² Right away a man with leprosy came up and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

³ Reaching out his hand, Jesus touched him, saying, “I am willing; be made clean.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ Then Jesus told him, “See that you don’t tell

anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

Jesus told him to go to the religious leaders, because the leaders knew this was a miracle that only the messiah could perform.

Some of this comes from Dr. Arnold Fructenbaum, a Messianic Jew. You can find his ministry and content at: <https://www.ariel.org/>

What were the Messianic miracles?

1. Healing of a leper - Hadn't been done to a Jew since Moses healed Mariam.
2. Healing of a person born blind - someone born blind had no eyes or eyesight, God would have to create something out of nothing.
3. Healing of a deaf, dumb demon possessed person. But if someone can't speak or hear, how would you drive out the demon?
4. Raising someone from the dead. - Lazarus, John 12

Next time we'll continue to look at mamzers in the gospel of Matthew.