

Thornbury Baptist Church  
Small Group Discussion Questions

**Talk Date:** January 25<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Talk title:** “What kind of man is this?”

**Passage:** Matt 8:28-34

**Speaker:** Paul Ferguson

**Discussion Questions**

**1. “What kind of man is this?” – What have we seen so far?**

Looking at Matthew 5–8 (especially the miracles and the storm),

**what different aspects of Jesus’ authority stand out to you?**

What seems to amaze the crowds... and what seems to unsettle the disciples?

**2. Why do the demons recognise Jesus so quickly when the disciples don’t?**

In 8:29 the demons immediately call him “*Son of God.*”

**What do they understand about Jesus that others are still missing?**

What does this tell us about who Jesus is — and about spiritual reality?

**3. “Son of God” as a mission, not just a title**

The talk described this as a **vocation** — representing the Father and carrying out His work. **How does seeing “Son of God” as a mission of rescue and restoration change how you read this story?**

What is Jesus *doing* here that shows the Father’s heart?

**4. The journey across the lake**

Jesus crosses a storm and leaves the crowds to reach two isolated, tormented men.

**What does this tell us about who matters to Jesus?**

Have you ever experienced a time when God seemed to come after you personally?

**5. Liberation is disruptive**

The townspeople ask Jesus to leave after the men are set free (8:34).

**Why do you think people sometimes resist change, even when it brings healing?**

Are there areas in life where we might prefer comfort over transformation?

**6. Recognition at the cross**

In Matthew, demons recognise Jesus early, but a Roman centurion finally says, “*Surely he was the Son of God*” at the cross (27:54).

**Why is Jesus most clearly recognised in his suffering rather than in his miracles?**

What does that show us about the kind of King he is?

**7. Takeaway**

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

Spend time praying with one another in the light of your discussion.