

WONDER WORKING POWER

Questions for Application for the Week of October 19, 2014 Part 2 - Jesus: Savior of the World - Matthew 8:5-17

1. God called Israel out to be a separate people from the rest of the world and this dramatically influenced the way they interacted with other people groups, commonly referred to as Gentiles. Unfortunately, Israel distorted this relationship and looked upon Gentiles with disdain and arrogance. Are there people in your life that you've separated yourself from and look upon with a degree of arrogance? How does Jesus' interaction with the Centurion inform your understanding of yourself and any change you might need to make?

2. The Centurion humbly approached Jesus, recognizing not just that Jesus was God (8:6,8) but also recognizing Jesus' great power (8:7). Do you recognize Jesus to be as powerful as he says he is? Why or why not? Apart from the stories we've looked at over the past couple of weeks, what are some other stories that display Jesus' great power?

3. The fact that Jesus is all-powerful means that he is able to do all that he wills. The theological word for this attribute of God is omnipotent. The account of Jesus' great power displayed practically in his many healings and miracles is meant to show us that he truly is omnipotent. Is there a circumstance in your life right now where knowledge of the omnipotence of God might provide you comfort? If you're willing, share this with the group.

4. In response to the Centurion's request and his great faith, Jesus heals the sick servant. This was in spite of the fact that Centurion was a Gentile. However, this healing highlights the fact that Jesus came to reconcile all things to himself (Col. 1:20), including all types of people (Gal. 3:27-29). In response to this great reconciling work, we are now called to a "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:18). Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. What does this ministry look like for you personally? Who are you called to be a minister of reconciliation to? What are some of the obstacles you face?

5. Matthew wraps up this section with a brief, third healing in which Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law. The sickness doesn't appear to be serious and the healing is without any fanfare. Jesus simply touches her and she's healed. One thing we can draw from this is that while Jesus is all-powerful, he still cares about the mundane affairs of our life. Would you agree with this? Why or why not? Is there anything too small to bring before God?

Possible Topics for Breakout

Note: As a group your leader may choose one or two of these topics to discuss in breakout. On any given week they may not be directly linked to this week's passage but they are good areas to hold each other accountable. Don't feel that you need to "prep" for each of these questions, but rather these areas would be good to think through on your own or with your spouse.

- Is there a Scripture passage that you could memorize that would help remind you of the power of Jesus?
- How are we letting the mundane-ness of everyday life lead us to neglect growth in our walk with Jesus?
- Where have we seen the themes of the gospel in our relationships this week/month?
- Marriages: How have we invested time and energy into learning our spouse this week/month?