

**OCF Small Groups:** *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

## **Matthew 8:1-34**

(Sunday, November 20)

1. If you could personally witness any miracle that Jesus performed, which supernatural event would you pick, and why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. a. Lepers were outcasts in Jewish society and were required to shout "unclean" wherever they went. What sticks out to you about Jesus' encounter with the man (vv. 1-4)?  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
b. How has your relationship with Christ made a difference between feeling included in or excluded from meaningful contact with others?  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
c. Note that the man afflicted with leprosy never questioned Jesus' ability to heal, but rather His willingness to heal (vv. 1-4). Do you think people share this same doubt today? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. a. Jesus is astonished with the centurion's response (vv. 5-13). What sticks out to you about the centurion's faith?  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
b. Both the leper and the centurion were outcasts from the Jews' perspective. Who are the outcasts in our community? How do these stories model the way we might relate to them and meet their basic needs?

4. a. We see how Jesus responds to would-be followers (vv. 18-22). From what Jesus says to them, what is he looking for? What does Jesus want us to be primarily concerned with?

b. The disciples' fear of the furious storm seems natural (vv. 23-27). What does Jesus want the disciples to know about him? How does Jesus want his disciples/us to respond?

5. a. Does the witness of miracles affect the importance or truth of Christian faith? Explain.

b. How would modern miracles affect the faith lives of believers? The lives of nonbelievers?

c. If you've known or heard of a miracle, what were the circumstances of that event?

d. How might God receive the glory from a person who is never healed?

6. a. After what had happened to the demon-possessed men, the townspeople pleaded with Jesus to leave their (vv. 28-34). Though the Gadarene townspeople understood that the lives of two men were saved (see 8:33), apparently they cared more about their own economic lives. What are some reasons why people don't want Jesus Christ around?

b. After Jesus calmed the natural world's chaos (Matt. 8:23-27), the demons recognized that he would also overpower the chaos of the spiritual world (see v. 29). What often-neglected aspect of Jesus' mission does this highlight? What is our role?