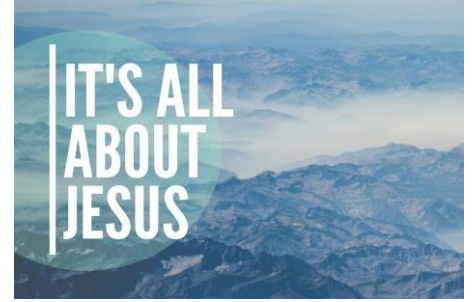


It's All About Jesus

Matthew 8:1–17 — The Leper & the Centurion



Opening question

Think of a time when you really needed help.

What made it easier (or harder) to ask someone for help?

1. Jesus is for everyone

The leper and the centurion could hardly have been more different in status and circumstances. What do these two encounters tell us about who Jesus welcomes?

2. Honest faith

The leper says, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Does this sound more like faith, doubt, or both?

What does his example teach us about bringing our honest questions and doubts to Jesus?

3. Spiritual sensitivity

The talk compared spiritual numbness with leprosy: without spiritual sensitivity we may fail to recognise that something is wrong.

What might spiritual numbness look like in our lives?

What helps us become more spiritually aware?

4. Conviction or condemnation?

The talk suggested that when we become spiritually alive, we may begin to feel conviction about things that previously didn't trouble us.

How can we tell the difference between the Holy Spirit's conviction and unhealthy guilt or condemnation? How can we apply 1 John 1.6-9? What scriptures would you use to help a new Christian with false guilt?

5. Growing in discernment

Read Hebrews 5:11–14.

The passage talks about Christians learning to “distinguish good from evil.”

What helps us grow in spiritual discernment?

How important are Scripture, prayer, experience, other Christians and the Holy Spirit?

6. It's all about Jesus

The centurion recognised Jesus' authority and trusted simply in his word.

What does this passage teach us about who Jesus is?

And what difference might it make this week if we deliberately put Jesus at the centre of our decisions, worries and relationships?