

Encountering Jesus

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Luke 7.1-10 (page 1602), Matthew 8.10-13 (page 1507)

The Story - A Combination of Luke 7 and Matthew 8

The Players

1. The Centurion

- Looking at the centurion we realize that faith can show up _____.
- It can happen in _____.
It can happen in the lives of those _____.

2. Jesus

- Looking at Jesus you recognize that He ought to have _____.

- Either Jesus is _____ or He isn't.
- If we claim that He is that means He has _____ and we do not get to _____ when it comes to how we follow Him and serve Him.

3. The Crowd

- Looking at the crowd we see there is only one way to be saved—by _____.

(John 14.6, Mark 6.6)
- A question for us all today: What exactly are we _____?

Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group.

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

- What jumped out at you when you read this story of Jesus' encounter with the centurion? What was most striking, interesting, troubling, or confusing?
- Which of the ideas in the sermon today raised the most questions for you? Are you leaving today thinking about where faith might show up in your life or in the life of someone you know? Are you pondering just what, exactly, you are putting your faith and trust in? Are you thinking through the ways in which Jesus is or isn't the "Lord" of your words, decisions, and actions? What hit home to you, and—more importantly—what do you feel you need to do about it?
- Why do you think God had you here today? What did you need to hear? How did God speak to you through today's service? What do you need to do in response to today's service?

Some next steps ...Here are some things you can do this week to dig deeper:

- Who are the people in your life who are far from faith? The people that you have prayed for, shared your life with, and invested your energy in? Do you ever get discouraged that faith will never take root in their lives? Don't give up. Make a list of those people and commit to praying for them each day this week. Pray that, like the centurion, faith might show up in their life no matter how unlikely it might seem.
- Next week we finish up our Encountering Jesus series. As you think of the different stories of Jesus' life that you have read in the Bible, which ones jump out at you? If you were to pick a story for next week's sermon, which story would you pick and why? What does that story teach you about Jesus, yourself and others?

