

Why Are You Afraid?

Discussion Questions for Matthew 8

Sermon taught April 11th, 2021 by Daniel Harrison.

The questions below are designed to facilitate group discussion. Feel free to take the discussion in an organic direction as the Holy Spirit leads. These questions are simply a starting point to help you get the most out of your reflection and discussion.

Passage

Matthew 8:1-27

Notes

1. Christian Counselor Edward Welch said that,

“Your emotions are a kind of language. Anger, embarrassment, happiness, grief, guilt - they all say something. For example, anger says, “it’s your fault.” Listen more carefully and it says, “I am authorized to stand in judgment of you.... Fear too, is saying something. And we would be wise to listen. It says, “run for the hills,” and “avoid, deny, pretend it’s not going to happen.”

What current events, whether in your personal life or society, have sparked a sense of fear in your mind or heart? What might this fear be predicting about your future?

2. Consider verses 1-4. Jesus shows us that he has divine authority (or power) to heal. But this passage also displays another attribute as well. What else does this passage teach us about the nature and character of Jesus? Why is this combination important?

3. Consider verses 5-13. Of all the types of people in the world, why was Jesus specifically amazed that a *gentile* believed in his authority to heal? What does this teach us about Jesus' posture toward "outsiders?"

4. Who specifically in society might "religious" people deem "unlikely" to receive God's favor? How might the story of the untouchable leper, the unacceptable gentile, and the unprofitable woman inform our posture toward them?

5. Consider verses 23-27. This story of the storm is a three part lesson on fear. Jesus taught his disciples that A) fear stems from lack of control, B) faith engages God's power, and C) Jesus rules over creation history. In your own words, what are some practical ways we can engage God's power through faith?
