



GOING DEEPER

Feb 15/16, 2020

Title: Discovering the Genius of Jesus Series – Week 3 “Crisis of Faith”

Teacher: Pastor Tim

Selected Texts: Matthew 8:5-10, 23-27 & Mark 9:14-24

Matthew and Mark describe people who are desperately in need, at drastically different stages of faith and each encounter Jesus.

The ‘genius of Jesus’ is that He engages people at all levels of faith. Your doubts or crises of faith do not disqualify you from Jesus.

As we trace these stories (of the Centurion asking for Jesus’ help for his servant at home; of the disciples in the storm; of the man whose son was in critical condition), we observe how Jesus took each of them at the level of faith they were, embraced them, and, not only helped them but, took them one step further in their faith.

Thoughts to Ponder:

“You don’t need to deserve Jesus – you just need to need Him.”

“The genius of Jesus is that He doesn’t send people away because their faith doesn’t measure up.”

“There are a lot of people on the borderlands of belief. People with a strong hunch there is something real but who have not yet found it realized in a meaningful way.” – Philip Yancy

Discussion Questions:

We have been taught that responsible people handle their own problems, but sometimes our problems are bigger than us.

(1) Describe an experience in which whatever you were facing was bigger than your ability to handle it. Each of the people in our Biblical accounts had that type of experience and it drove them to seek help from Jesus.

(2) Discuss a situation in which you either did trust Jesus to help you cope or manage your circumstance or in which you held back because you couldn't quite work up the ability to trust – yet. If that moment is something you are currently experiencing - in real time – even better. Don't hesitate to describe your struggles of faith.

(3) Discuss the following 2 lists.

The purposes: be honest about your faith and your doubts AND realize, within your group, you'll each likely have different lists and you can learn from the faith and doubts of others.

- Areas of Faith You'd Like to Affirm (areas you find it easy to trust)
- Areas of Doubt (areas you struggle with)

(4) If it is true (we believe it is) that Jesus honours small steps of faith, what is your next small step?

Never Stop Praying:

- **Faith would rise up and help each person who hears this message take next the next small step of faith in Jesus**
- **Party Down Days on Friday, Feb 21: that kids attending, while off school, would encounter Jesus in a new way and find faith in him**
- **Relationships: that Love Stronger would help couples strengthen their relationship skills while Journey Through Separation and DivorceCare would help those with broken relationships find healing and restored faith**
- **For our elder and deacon boards & Trinity staff, to lead in wisdom, faith, hope and love**