



Week 10: Parables and Mighty Works

Introduction:

As Jesus continues His ministry, He continues to teach us what it really means to be His disciples and understand His Kingdom. Through parables and healings, Jesus' true identity and character are further revealed as He graciously engages with the people around Him.

Note: As you discuss questions in your groups or reflect on them by yourself, keep in mind that the goal is not to get all the answers right. Many of us will not know the answers, and that is okay! The goal is to interact with God's Word and give genuine thought to it. If you struggle to even guess a possible answer, that is okay too! The pastors will provide the answers after your discussion so you can know and record them on your study guide.

Questions:

Read Luke 8:1-21

1. Which people in our time would you liken to the different types of soil. How can you tell which one is which? What about yourself? How can you be sure which one you are?

Answer:

2. According to Jesus, we should “take care then how we hear” the word of God. In these verses, what are some marks of careful hearing of the word? What are some marks of careless hearing?

Answer:

Read Luke 8:22-25

3. After His miraculous control of the weather, the disciples ask a very important question: “who is this?” Whom may the disciples have thought Jesus to be up to this point?

Answer:

Read Luke 8:26-39

4. Jesus delivers the tormented man and restores him in spirit and status. The man first begs for Jesus to leave him alone and later begs Jesus to accept him as a follower. But Jesus has other plans for the man. How Does Jesus’ command to this gentile align with Jesus’ overall mission?

Answer:

Read Luke 8:40-56

5. The mourners at the side of the dead girl laughed at Jesus when he claimed she was merely asleep. What verses of today's scriptures help understand this behavior?

Answer:

6. The story of the possessed man, Jairus' daughter, and the bleeding woman all speak to the tension humans feel between faith and fear. What situations provoke people to feel either one? What do you think is the key to feeling one or the other in the presence of Jesus?

Answer:

Closing Thought:

As James tells us, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.”

May we be people who Hear the word of Jesus, understand it through the lens of faith and trust, and go into the world, telling people what He has done to bring restoration and life to all.