

14—Healing, Questions, Anointings

Matthew 8:5-13; 11:2-30; Luke 7:1-8:3

1. Where was Jesus dwelling at this point in time (see Matthew 4:13)? When he gets back into his hometown who approaches him, what is the problem, and how does he suggest Jesus fix it (Matthew 8:5-9; Luke 7:1-8)?
2. What is the reaction of Jesus to this man's request (Matthew 8:10; Luke 7:9)? What is unique about who made this request and what does Jesus note about it (Matthew 8:11-12)? What is unique about how this miracle is performed (Matthew 8:13; Luke 7:10)?
3. Read Luke 7:11-17. Why would it have been, especially in this time, a great sadness for a widow to lose her only son (see also Jeremiah 6:26; Zechariah 12:10)? What does Jesus do in this case?
4. As we try to "know Jesus" better, what simple things can we learn from Him in how He responds to this widow's pain during this healing (Luke 7:13-15)? How did others respond to Jesus (Luke 7:16-17)?
5. While the popularity of Jesus was rising, where was John the prophet at this point in time (Matthew 11:1-2; cp. Luke 3:19-20)? As John sat alone in prison, what is it he wanted to know about Jesus and what was the response of Jesus to His question (Matthew 11:3-6; Luke 7:18-23)?

6. What do the following passages in Isaiah say about the Messiah? How would these passages have comforted John (Isaiah 29:18; 35:4-6; 61:1)?

7. Jesus makes some interesting statements about John after sending away His messengers (Matthew 11:7-11; Luke 7:24-28). Based on these statements, what did Jesus verify about John? What does this verify about Jesus? What does this tell us about “the kingdom of heaven” of which Jesus spoke?

8. The crowd reacts to these statements about John in two very different ways. How do they react (Luke 7:29-30)? To whom does Jesus compare this crowd (Matthew 11:16-17; Luke 7:31-32)?

9. How were the styles of John and Jesus quite different? In what ways were the criticisms of these two men different (Matthew 11:18-19; Luke 7:33-35)? What lessons might this teach us about critics and those looking for an excuse to reject the message of the gospel?

10. Why does Jesus rebuke the cities who refused the message of both John and Jesus (Matthew 11:20-27)? For what reason should they have repented? What does He invite those with honest hearts to do in response to His teaching (Matthew 11:28-30)?

