

One Thing We Should Never Do

We should never laugh at Jesus! It's just not smart! We never want to imitate the crowd that laughed thinking that Jesus didn't know what He was talking about when He said a little girl was only asleep. Laughing at Jesus is the one thing we should never do because Jesus is the one who healed the sick, cast out demons, calmed the storm, AND brought a little girl back to life. Matthew 8 and 9 records nine miracles of Jesus, which reveal the power of the kingdom of God. When Jesus shows up, all bets are off! And so may the truth of who Jesus is, and the power of God's in-breaking kingdom, encourage our faith today in our own places of need.

Opening Question: What is the greatest need in your life right now?

Read Matthew 9:18-26

1. What's the scene? Describe the flow of the events. Who are the various characters in the story?
2. What do we learn about the father? How is he described? What does he do?
3. If you are walking through this story as one of Jesus' disciples (v. 19), what kinds of things do you learn about Jesus?
4. Where do you see yourself in this story? To whom do you most relate?

5. What insights does this passage give you about approaching Jesus with difficult things in your life? How does it encourage your boldness to ask?

6. Is there anyway that you are keeping your distance from Jesus? Why?

Steve said:

We are going to give you a couple of minutes to sit before God. Ask yourself, is there any way I'm laughing at Jesus? If so, how? And how can I walk in faith?

7. Where are you "laughing at Jesus" these days?

8. What would it look like to walk in faith in this area?

9. Matthew 9:35-36 is a kind of summary statement of the ministry of Jesus described in chapters 8 and 9. How is Jesus described in this summary? What does this add to our understanding of why it makes sense to go to Jesus in faith with our needs?