

## **Matthew 8:1-17**

*“Jesus is the good and gracious King, not a harsh and distant King”.* What might cause us to think wrongly about Jesus?

Read Matthew 8:1-4.

What did the leper doubt about Jesus? What did he not doubt?

In what ways might we have similar doubts?

What is radical about what the leper does?

What is even more remarkable about what Jesus does?

In a spiritual sense, the Bible pictures all those outside of Christ as being unclean like this leper. What might prevent us from coming to Jesus? If we are already in Christ, what might cause us to forget that this was once our situation?

Read Matthew 8:5-13.

Given what we are told about him in verses 5 and 6, what kind of man is this centurion?

What about the centurion particularly astonishes Jesus?

What does the example of the centurion teach us about what faith is?

What is the encouragement and what is the challenge for us from Jesus' words in verses 11 and 12?

In what ways might Matthew's account of this episode be described as "*a man with authority encountering one with greater authority still*"?

Read Matthew 8:14-17.

In what ways do we see Jesus bringing people back from the brink in these verses?

From this passage, we clearly see that Jesus had time for the marginalised. As his people in the world today, how might we minister to those who are marginalised?