

**Matthew 8:1-13;17**  
**“Holistic Healing through Substitutionary Sacrifice”**

In general terms what do Jesus’ miracles tell us about who he is and why he has come?

**Read vs. 1-4**

Look at Leviticus 13:45-46 for background. Put yourself in the place of the leper, what might your life look like socially, economically, personally, spiritually, physically in light of this?

To touch a leper was to become unclean, what is Jesus communicating to the leper, to the crowd with this action?

**Read 5-13**

Commentators note that the force of the original language turns Jesus’ statement in vs. 7 into a question – Shall I come and heal him? – they then link this story to Matthew 15:21-28 – read that passage and note together the similarities.

(vs. 10-12 and 15:28)) What heart attitude is Jesus challenging in his listeners with these verses?

What are some contemporary examples of a similar heart attitude in our world? How do Jesus’ words here address us?

How does the Centurion exemplify the proper approach to Jesus?

How does Jesus define faith in this situation?

Note in your discussion: The Centurion does not have a right view of who Jesus is – he does not see Jesus as God, nor as having authority in and of himself– but only as a man who is “under the authority” of God – (see vs. 9). How does this change our view of what faith is?

**Read vs. 17**

Matthew roots the miracles of Jesus in scripture. Read the original reference from Isaiah 53:3-6. What does this reveal about Jesus' mission?

In what ways does Jesus live out a life of substitutionary sacrifice? (taking our illnesses, diseases, iniquities, transgressions)

In the sermon it was said that the Jesus who gives his life for us in substitutionary sacrifice calls us to give our lives in substitutionary sacrifice. What would such a life look like practically?

From these verses we can see that Jesus' concern and compassion is for the entirety of the human condition. What does that mean for the follower of Jesus?