

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

A WONDERFUL FAITH

WEEK 3 | CRAIG REES

Matthew 8:5-13, 27 • Matthew 9:8,33 • Matthew 15:31 • Matthew 21:20

Matthew 22:22 • Matthew 27:14 • Psalm 118:22-23

An indicator of having encountered Jesus is that we live amazed.

1. Would you agree with the statement that Christians can easily lose their sense of amazement at who God is and what He is doing? Has that ever happened to you? If so, why do you think that happened?
2. Jesus challenged the idea of no-go places and no-go people. In what ways has your Christian experience in a church exposed you to elements of a 'no-go' mindset? How do you discern when something is legitimately off-limits?
3. The Centurion was the first person in the First Gospel to hold out for something that hadn't happened before. Can you think of a time when you have held out for something that you had not previously experienced? What helped you stay the course?
4. The greater the authority, the greater the freedom of action. No one can place restrictions on Jesus's freedom to act. Can you think of a time when you, or someone you know, placed restrictions on Jesus's ability to act in a certain situation? What did you learn from this experience?
5. "To be human is to be surprised." With Mark 6:6 and Matthew 8:10 in mind, do you agree with this statement?
6. "To encounter Jesus is to be amazed." Share of a recent encounter with Jesus that amazed you?
7. How easy is it to take what God has done for granted? What can you do to awaken your sense of amazement when you hear of people coming to Christ, getting baptized, or breaking free of a life-controlling habit?
8. What is your next step in developing a faith that allows God to surprise you? How can your small group support you as you journey into joy?