

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – May 16, 2021

Theme: The Life of Jesus

Topic: Jesus: His Healing Ministry

Main Text: Luke 7:1-17; 18: 35-43

Key verse: Luke 7:22: *“Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: Matthew 9 is largely an account of the miracle-working ministry of Jesus. Five miracles are recorded, four of them physical healings, and the fifth, a restoring to life of a dead girl. But these are only representative of the many miracles Jesus performed. In fact, toward the end of the chapter, Matthew seems to sum it all up by writing: *“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction”* (Matthew 9: 35). Several years later when Peter was preaching to Cornelius’ household, he said that *“[Jesus] went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil”* (Acts 10:38). Of all Peter could have said about Jesus’ ministry he focused on His doing good and healing people. The ultimate purpose of Jesus’ incarnation of course was to give His life as a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28), but His three years of public ministry were characterized by doing good and healing people.

1. (a) Read John 2:11; 2:23; 4:54; 20:30–31; Hebrews 2:4. What was the purpose of Jesus’ healing miracles?
(b) Read Luke 1:68; 7:9, 16-17 and 18: 43. How did the healing miracles advance Jesus’ ministry on earth?
(c) In what way does the response of the people in Luke 7:16-17 reveal the purpose of Jesus’ healing ministry?

John specifically states that the miracles he included in his gospel were for the purpose that his reader *“may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you might have life in His name”* (John 20:31). But this truth can easily be lost in the spectacle of the healing miracles. Perhaps that is why Jesus told some of those He healed not to tell anyone (Luke 5:14). There was also the case of the paralytic, whom Jesus told, *“Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”* (Matthew 9:2 NKJV). Apart from using His healing ministry to meet the needs of the persons involved, or His Sonship, Jesus used the healings to other ends as well.

2. Read Luke 7:6-9, 14-17; 18:37-41. (a) Why do you think Jesus drew attention to the centurions’ remark and what does the remark reveal about Jesus? (b) What does the idea of ‘God visited His people’ say to you in the widow’s situation? (c) What characters of God is revealed in these miracles and in the responses of those involved?

A look at all the three healing miracles mentioned in our text today show something unique about each one: Some Jewish elders approached Jesus on behalf of the Centurion, who was pleading on behalf of his sick servant. Jesus did not even get to see or touch the sick servant but healed him by acknowledging the great faith of the centurion. In fact, Jesus did not even speak the word as suggested by the centurion. In the case of the bereaved widow of Nain, Jesus was moved by compassion. And the people saw in that action, God coming to visit. And blind Bartimaeus somehow linked all he may have heard of Jesus of Nazareth to the promised Messiah – ‘Son of David.’ These were no chance events or comments or responses. Jesus was deliberately declaring His mission and purpose in everything He did. No wonder when John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus with his anxious questions, Jesus simply referred him back to His healing ministry!

3. Read Luke 7: 11-15; 18:35-43. (a) How does the state of the dead young man and that of Bartimaeus mirror our spiritual state? (b) How does Jesus’ healing ministry in these instances reflect His ultimate purpose for humanity? (c) How do the responses of the persons involved in all three instances paint the picture of salvation through Jesus Christ? What are some possible applications from these for us?

Prayer: *Our father, we thank You for being so loving and compassionate as to send Your Son to redeem us from our sin. Please help us to be aware of our own sinfulness and be willing to call out for mercy to Jesus and respond even as the blind man followed in worship and adoration in Christ Name Amen*