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**Chapter 5 Study Guide: Crowds Grow as Jesus Reveals Power**

**Icebreaker**: If Jesus were here today, what miracles do you think He would perform and why?

1. What stuck out to you from the teaching or reading this week?
2. In Jesus’ encounter with the centurion (pg. 76), what characteristics of the centurion’s attitude and request would be helpful to remember when we ask God for help?
3. When Jesus first saw the widow from Nain (pg. 77), what emotion does it say Jesus felt for her? How could this picture of Jesus help us to come to Him more?
4. Is it difficult for you to believe that Jesus really brought this dead man back to life? How would believing in God’s power to raise the dead strengthen our faith?
5. Even though John the Baptist has been faithful to God’s will in his life, he still has doubts while in prison (pg. 77). How can you relate to his questions and doubts?
6. Jesus had severe words for the towns of Chorazin and Bethsaida because even though Jesus did miracles in their midst, they still did not repent (pg. 79-80). What do you think Jesus would say if He came and preached in our city today?
7. **Background**: Jesus violated social taboos to reach out to those marginalized not only racially, economically and religiously – but also morally. The woman Jesus forgave and allowed to anoint Him (pg. 81-82) could have been a prostitute and was at least a woman with “loose morals.” What does this show about Jesus’ love for us?
8. In order to rebuke Simon’s attitude, Jesus tells a story. Why do you think Jesus uses a story to get his point across and what is the point of the story? Do you see your faith more like Simon’s or more like the woman’s?
9. Jesus says, “For the mouth speaks from what fills the heart” (pg. 84). So what does it say about the heart when:
   1. What you say does not match with what you really believe to be true?
   2. You give thanks to God?
   3. You are critical of others?
   4. You confess your faith in Christ?
10. Based on question #8, if you are being hurtful with your words, what needs to change?
11. In His parable of the soils, Jesus says some people receive God’s Word but fall away because of trouble, persecutions and testing (pg. 87). What troubles or persecutions cause some to fall away today?
12. How can you make sure that the worries of life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the other desires of the world will not choke the life out of your Christian walk?
13. Jesus says, “Whoever has will be given more, but whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him” (pg. 88). This means that we are accountable for what we do with the “light” we have already been given and if we don’t obey what we have already received, we will never receive more. How can we make sure that we put into practice what we already have received?
14. How do the parables about the seed and yeast (pg. 89) help us better understand what the kingdom of God is like?
15. What can we learn about Jesus from the calming of the storm (pg. 91-92)?
16. How do the demon-possessed man’s actions after Jesus delivered him serve as an example to us?
17. Jesus tells the woman who had been suffering for twelve years with a hemorrhage, “Your faith has made you well” (pg. 94). He also tells Jairus to “just believe” and his daughter “will be healed” (pg. 95). What connection is there between a person’s faith and whether God heals him or her of a sickness?