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Gospel of Matthew: Outline 72

What is the purpose of this outline: The purpose of this outline is to get your people to engage in real discussion of God's Word so that they can connect with each other and with God, and so they can grow in their faith and their relationship with God.

ACTIVITY: God has called us to pastor our city. Jesus taught the following evangelism strategy in Luke 10:

- Bless with peace
- Fellowship
- Pray for felt needs
- Proclaim the Kingdom

Prayer evangelism means that we talk to God about the people we want to reach before we talk to those people about God.

Get your Connect Group to take a screen shot of their area on Google Maps or Maps and ask them to lay hands on their area (the photo) and bless their area with peace. Encourage them to bless their area (the photo) or walk around the area and bless it on a daily basis.

Read: Matthew 8:14-16 (part 2)

A. **BIBLICAL APPLICATION**

The answers in this outline are a guideline to facilitate discussion. This outline is not a comprehensive discussion of the scripture

Question 1: Have you ever experienced a miraculous healing yourself or seen someone receive a miraculous healing? Tell us about it.

Answer:

- Personal discussion

Question 2: What was Peter's mother-in-law's response to the healing – how should this affect our response to God when He intervenes for us?

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Answer:

- She showed her gratitude to Jesus by serving Him
- It is very important to show our gratitude to God when He does something for us
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- You should use the strength God has given you to serve Him
- She didn't just say thank you, she immediately served the Lord
- Read 1 Peter 4:11

Question 3: The meal that Peter's mother-in-law cooked was her way of serving Jesus. Each of us must find our way to serve Jesus. In what way do you serve Jesus?

Answer:

- Read Romans 12:3-8. These are ways that we can serve Jesus
- Personal discussion

Question 4: Why is it so important to show gratitude to God when we receive a healing?

Answer:

- We can easily lose our healing if we take our eyes off of Jesus
- We must express gratitude and serving God is the best way to keep our eyes on Jesus
- Read Matthew 14:25-31
- When Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and put them on to the situation and circumstances around him the miracle stopped

Question 5: After Jesus rebuked the fever (muzzled it), Peter's mother-in-law could immediately get up and make lunch. Why could she do this?

Answer:

- Normally a person would take a few days to regain their strength after a high fever
- Read Acts 5:16
- This was not a physical sickness – this was a demon spirit that was afflicting her
- In this case as soon as the fever was removed, her body was strong
- Therefore the full symptoms of her sickness were spiritual and not physical

Question 6: What did Jesus do after healing the mother-in-law and why is this significant?

Answer:

- Jesus cast out many other demon spirits from people
- Many sicknesses have their root in demonic oppression
- This confirms that the illness Peter's mother-in-law suffered from was caused by demonic oppression - because people knew to bring those who were suffering from demonic oppression to Jesus

Question 7: Why would word have spread in this community about this healing?

Answer:

- Peter's mother-in-law was obviously very sick

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- The local people knew that she was very sick and so were impressed by the healing
- They saw that the demonic oppression that was on this lady was cast out, that's why they brought people with demon spirits to Jesus

Question 8: Read Luke 13:11-13 – This woman was crippled by demons for eighteen years – what does this teach us about sickness?

Answer:

- A lot of sickness and infirmity is caused by demon spirits
- Too often we think of sickness as a natural phenomenon, which means that we accept sickness too easily and treat it as a physical phenomenon
- Repeatedly in the Bible sickness was treated by casting out demons
- We need to cast out the demon of infirmity
- Jesus used the gift of discernment to see whether the cause of the sickness was physical or demonic

Question 9: How did Jesus cast out demons in this story?

Answer:

- Jesus used a simple command to cast out the demons
- We do not need elaborate ceremonies or to make huge efforts to cast out demons. They need to go when we command them to leave

Question 10: Read Acts 19:13-16 – How do we cast out demons?

Answer:

- Read Mark 16:17-18
- Read Luke 9:1
- Jesus gave us authority to cast out demons – we have the authority to cast out demons because of the rank and authority that Jesus had and which He has given to us

Question 11: What have you learned tonight and what are you going to do differently because of what you learned.

Answer:

- Personal Discussion

WATCH THE BOTTOM LINE: <https://youtu.be/rU5uoL5vwws>

Activity: Pray for the felt needs of the people in your Connect Group, especially for those who are sick among you

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