

THE UNTAMED & UNPREDICTABLE JESUS

A Quick Review:

Practicing What He Preached:

Luke 7:1-10, 6:27-49

Jesus:

- ✓ Loved his enemy.
- ✓ Didn't judge because of position or title.
- ✓ Did judge by what was said and done.
- ✓ Showed mercy to the least deserving.

4 Lessons From An Unpredictable Jesus:

- ❶ Jesus can be amazed at our **faith** or lack of **faith**.
Luke 7:9, Mark 6:6, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:6, James 1:5-6
- ❷ The **power** is from God, not the right **process** or **formula**.
Luke 7:6-8, Mark 5:25-34, Matthew 11:28-30
- ❸ The lack of God's **presence** never diminishes his **power**.***
Luke 7:9-10, Romans 8:35-39, Matthew 28:20, John 10:25-30
- ❹ We give God our **attention** because he got ours first.
Luke 7:11-17, 1 John 4:7-21, Ephesians 2:13, Romans 5:6-8

TAKING IT HOME

1. Is there an area of your life that you sense God is asking you to trust him enough to do what he says? If so, what is the next step you need to take in obeying him in this area?

2. Is there anything you'd like prayer for from your group?

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.



We are just two weeks away from this fun day of adventure (Jan. 29)! It will be part race, part party and FUN for everyone – from the adrenaline junkie to the techie type and everyone in between. There will be awards in multiple categories – youngest team, oldest team, etc. Make your

plans to support a team, be part of a team or just cheer a team on at the finish line!

You can sign up, make a donation, or get more information online at

www.amazingracetoserve.com.

All money raised will go to our next Weekend of Service scheduled for Spring 2011.

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Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 16, 2011

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Food is a big part of most of our lives. If you had to give up a favorite food, which one would be the most difficult for you to give up?

What is one food you'd be happy never to eat again?

2. We heard this weekend that God is all about getting our attention through a variety of means. As you think back on your life, can you think of a time when he unexpectedly got your attention? If so, what happened?

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on *The Untamed & Unpredictable Jesus*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Many of us have experienced times when we don't sense the presence of God. How could the following verses help someone who is feeling far from the presence of God?

Romans 8:35-39

Hebrews 13:5-6

Is there anything you do that helps you stay tuned in to the presence of God?

Anything you do that causes you to feel distant from God?

2. We saw this weekend that the Roman centurion got a "yes" answer to his request for Jesus to heal his servant. But not everyone in the Bible got a similar answer to their prayers. In 2 Samuel 12:15-23, we read about King David's persistent prayer for something that was incredibly important to him. What surprises you about David's behavior?

How is the balance between asking for what we want and deferring to God's will revealed in this story?

3. One of the lessons from an unpredictable Jesus is that he can be amazed at our faith or lack of faith. Often people confuse faith with positive thinking. They think that if they claim it, confess it, or believe something strong enough, their "faith" obligates God to grant their request. How does Hebrews 11:13 address this thinking?

Faith can be defined as "trusting God enough to do what he says." In John 4, we read about Jesus healing the son of another government official. In what ways do you see this definition of faith reflected in the official's response to Jesus in John 4:49-50?

Can you think of any examples in your life when you trusted God enough to do what he said? What was the outcome?