

Growing Deeper
The Cost of 6ft

Week Six: Efficiency at the Cost of Presence
Matthew 8:5-13; 28-34

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Sunday was Mother's Day. Think of a favorite memory with your mom. Would you say she exemplified efficiency or presence?
2. Read the two healings by Jesus in Matthew 8:5-13 and Matthew 8:28-34. What are the similarities?
3. What are some differences between the two events?
4. What does each healing tell you about Jesus?
5. Which healing do you relate to more? Why?
6. End your FIFTEEN with thanksgiving for the ways Jesus has healed you and ask for the healing you need right now.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

7. Where in your life do you strive for efficiency (work, home, communication, spiritual matters, relationships, etc.)?
8. Reread Matthew 8:5-13 in *The Message* version. Why did Jesus not go to heal the servant?
9. Would you describe Jesus as efficient or present in this encounter?
10. How did the captain (centurion) benefit from Jesus healing from a distance?
11. What characteristics of Jesus stand out to you in this healing?
12. Jesus develops his followers to think and act like him. End your FIFTEEN in self-examination. Confess the times you have been efficient at the expense of another.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

13. How has COVID pushed you to be more efficient? What other things push you that way?

14. What have you lost in that shift?

15. Read Matthew 8:28-34 in *The Message* version. If the area was so dangerous, why do you think Jesus chose to land there?

16. What did the demon-possessed men gain by Jesus' physical presence?

17. Why do you think the townspeople reacted the way they did?

18. We think we would love to see, hear, and touch Jesus in person, but would you really? How could Jesus, fully present and physical, be threatening?

19. End your FIFTEEN asking Jesus to draw near to you and overcome your resistance.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

20. Describe an experience of undistracted presence with another person. What did you enjoy about it?

21. Describe what undistracted, fully present time with God looks like for you.

22. Read Jeremiah 29:11-13. Read it again. And again. What words jump out to you?

23. What does it mean to seek God with all your heart?

24. What are the benefits of finding God?

25. What distracts you from being fully present with God?

26. Finish your time resting in God's presence. Think about him. Talk to him. Enjoy him.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

27. What do you remember about your time with God yesterday? Take a minute to recognize his full presence with you right now. Rest in it.

28. Read some of the other healing stories in Matthew 8. Focus on Matthew 8:1-4 and Matthew 8:14-15. How did Jesus heal in both of these encounters?

29. What risks did Jesus take by touching these people?

30. Why do you think Jesus touched these people?

31. Jesus demonstrated that he is not contaminated by touching the sick; rather his goodness overcomes and drives out disease and brokenness. How does this challenge your fears?

32. How could your full presence overcome brokenness in someone you know?

33. End your FIFTEEN in praise of a Savior who delights to be fully present with you. Make time during your weekend to watch Jesus healing a leper from the series *The Chosen*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDhpGbKPJSk> (The healing event starts at time mark 1:35:42.)