

## Application Guide: “With A Word...”

**Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005:** Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor of College Park, challenged us from four stories in Matthew 8, reminding us that Jesus Christ is mighty and able to conquer all the needs of the world. He loves the most unlovable, cures the most feared diseases in an instant, and is calling all of us to follow him with our whole hearts and lives. [NOTE – Some of these application points were derived from Joe Bartemus’ follow up message to Kimber’s sermon during the Sunday evening service].

1. Jesus starts building His kingdom with a leper. He saves amidst the worst, ugliest, and most hopeless of conditions! (Mt. 8:1-4)
  - a. Who are the “lepers” (outcasts) of College Park Church? In other words, who would be least likely to attend our services because they would most likely be shunned by the people of our congregation?
  - b. How are you doing in loving these people, and what needs to change in our lives as a result of Christ’s example?
2. Matthew shocked his Jewish audience by recounting an event in Christ’s life when a Roman Centurion had more faith than anyone in Israel. The Gospel is for *all* who have faith in Christ, and God’s Kingdom entails much more than our little sphere of influence! (Mt. 8:5-13)
  - a. Who are the people in your sphere of influence or in popular culture that you think are the least unlikely to place their faith in Christ (refer back to 1.a.)?
  - b. Why do we often discount God’s ability to save people who are different from us? Why do we as Americans think we have a corner on the Truth or God’s power, when we will actually be a minority in God’s kingdom of ALL nations of the world (cf. Rev 7:9)? What can we do to enlarge our understanding of what God is doing in the entire world?
3. Jesus then went to Peter’s house and healed his mother-in-law. In a world of tsunamis, wars, and political bouts, Jesus cares about the very concerns and people that *we* care about (Mt. 8:14-17).
  - a. We have a God who cares! Take some time during the meeting to thank God for his love and lift up each other’s prayer concerns.
  - b. Consider meditating on the words of the song we sang on Sunday morning:  
*“What a friend we have in Jesus all our sins and grief’s to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.”*
4. Jesus challenged his followers to consider the cost of following Him. In stark contrast to many Christian messages today, Jesus promises a life of hardship, insecurity, and homelessness to those who walk in His steps.
  - a. Evaluate your own heart – In what areas of your life are you trying to control, or hold on to, that are keeping you from being devoted to Christ? In what ways do you need to start making a sacrifice so that you can stop wasting the resources God has given you and start storing up treasures in heaven?
  - b. What does it look like to be a devoted follower of Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – in your home, work environment, and in regards to your attitude towards entertainment, shopping, or standard of living?