In his final words in the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus tells us to build our faith on the strong foundation of his word so we can withstand the storms of life that are sure to come. When crisis comes, our foundation is tested. We need to be sure we have a solid foundation built on knowing and trusting Jesus Christ.

In Chapters Seven and Eight we see Jesus’ ministry expanding. Up to this point he has moved about the Jewish world of Nazareth, Capernaum and the cities around the lake of Gennesaret. Now, he begins to include Gentiles. A Roman centurion’s servant is healed. A demon-possessed man in the land of the Gerasenes is put in his right mind and becomes an evangelist. These encounters give us a hint of what will happen in the Acts of the Apostles.

We also should give some thought to John the Baptist and the probing question he sent to Jesus: “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” John had his doubts. That’s why he sent his disciples to Jesus. But doubt and faith are not mutually exclusive.

We should always work to create safe environments of inquiry where people can share their doubts or questions about Jesus. In our next session, we will hear one of Jesus’ most challenging questions: “Who do you say that I am?”

As Jesus moves through this section of the Gospel of Luke, we can see God’s tender compassion at work. A widow is told not to weep as Jesus begins to restore her only son to life. A woman’s faith in the Great Physician brings healing no earthy doctor could accomplish. And Jairus, having been told of his daughter’s death, is giving the following assurance by the teacher from Nazareth: “Do not fear. Only believe.”

We will be looking for you this Thursday at 6 p.m. as we continue to explore the greatness of the Lord.

In Christ,

Fr. Dion and Patricia Jennings