

Two Responses to Jesus (Matthew 9:27–34)
GCC, Morning worship, 5/5/24

Introduction—Jesus was a polarizing figure who elicited one of **two responses**: *A faith that marvels or a doubt that mocks!*

- I. Five Ways that Faith Marvels
 - A. Faith that marvels recognizes its *deep need of mercy* (v. 27)
 - B. A Faith that marvels is *drawn to Jesus* (v. 28a)
 - C. A Faith that marvels *apprehends* though it doesn't always *comprehend* (vv. 28, 29)
 - D. A Faith that marvels *spreads his fame out of gratitude* (v. 31)
 - E. A Faith that marvels *sees its need for Jesus is soul AND body* (9:32–33)
- II. Beware of a Doubt that Mocks and Scoffs (9:34)
 - A. Doubt is illogical and absurd (Matt 12:25)
 - B. In order to **see**, you must become blind to your own pride and wisdom and knowledge (John 9:39–41)
 - C. In order to be able **to speak**, you must first “shut your mouth and become mute.” (Hab 2:20; Psalm 46:10)

Questions for application and discussion:

1. Why is it that Jesus is *less precious and powerful* to us when our need for mercy is less apparent to us?
2. How do we cultivate a greater awareness of our deep need of mercy?
3. Regarding our faith, what is the difference between *apprehension* and *comprehension*? Why might it be dangerous to always expect to *comprehend* everything God is doing or not doing?
4. How can Christians open themselves up to demonic activity which afflicts soul *and* body?
5. How is doubt illogical and absurd? What are some examples of how we doubt the Lord?