

## HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

### Discipleship – Part 9

#### Discipling the Powerful

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on discipleship. Our topic today: Discipling the Powerful.

Scripture Theme Song: Come to Me – Matthew 11:28-30

#### Prayer

- 1) Respect for those in positions of authority
  - a) Romans 13:1-7
  - b) Luke 20:25
  - c) When is it appropriate and necessary to disregard human laws and edicts? Acts 5:12-29
  - d) Has anyone in our class lived in a situation where it was necessary to disregard human laws or leave your country in order to obey God's commandments?
- 2) Relating to people hostile people in positions of authority – learning from Jesus
  - a) Mark 2:23-28
  - b) Mark 3:1-6
  - c) Mark 11:27-33
  - d) What lessons can we learn from these stories for our lives today?
- 3) Ministering to people in positions of authority

- a) Not all leaders were opposed to Jesus.
  - b) The Centurion - Luke 7:1-10
    - i) Even though this centurion is serving in a position of high authority, how does he relate to Jesus?
    - ii) How does Jesus relate to the centurion?
  - c) Nicodemus - John 3:1-15; John 7:45-52; John 19:38-39
  - d) Responsive priests - Acts 6:7
  - e) Why is it important to reach out to people in positions of authority even if we don't see immediate results?
- 4) Speaking a word of judgment to people in authority
    - a) Matthew 26:57-68
    - b) Luke 23:1-12
    - c) John 18:19-23
    - d) John 19:5-12
    - e) When is it appropriate to speak a word of judgment to people in authority and when is it better to be silent? James 1:19-20
  - 5) Discussion questions
    - a) What special gifts or qualities are necessary for those who would reach out to people in positions of authority?
    - b) Share the story of a person in a position of authority in your community who has become a follower of Jesus or a Christian in your community who has been placed in a position of authority.
    - c) What responsibilities do we have if we are called to occupy a position of authority in our community?