

Amazing Faith Part 1 – 11.5.17

Faith that Amazed Jesus Series

In the Gospels, Jesus often touted a child-like faith because **instead of looking at what cannot be done**, a child looks at **what needs to be done** and **simply trusts** their guardian to do what is needed.

In the Gospels, **32** times people are described as being amazed by Jesus. Yet, in those same books, the Gospels record only **two distinct times** when Jesus Himself was amazed. So what amazed the most amazing person who ever lived?

Luke 7:1-10

² *There a centurion*

- Centurions were Roman officers who were in command of 100 soldiers that maintained law and order in a locality. Yet, while most centurions were hated, the centurion in today's passage not only amazed Jesus, but he won the favor of his enemies. How do you amaze Jesus and win favor with people?

² *There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die.*

- Under Roman law, a master had the right to kill his slave, and **it was EXPECTED** that he would do so if the slave became ill or injured to the point where he could not work. Instead of seeing this boy as worthless, this particular centurion was concerned for the recovery of his servant.
- **#1 This centurion was amazing KIND.**
- You can tell a lot about a person by how they treat the "lesser" people in their lives.

³ *The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant.* ⁴ *When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this,* ⁵ *because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue."*

- Hearing that Jesus was in the area, the centurion decides to **RISK his reputation** by going to a Jew for help. The centurion did not go to Jesus himself, but asked the Jewish elders to speak to Jesus for Him. And the crazy part is the elders **not only** bring the centurion's request, but **they vouch** for their Gentile friend.
- **#2 This centurion was amazingly HIGHLY RESPECTED, even among his so-called enemies.**
- What does it take to become highly respected? It takes a lot of **TIME** of doing the right thing or the kind thing.

⁶ *So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you*

come under my roof. ⁷ *That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.*

- He saw Jesus as being so amazing that he wasn't even worthy to meet him face to face.
- **#3 This centurion was an amazingly HUMBLE man.**
- He asked Jesus to do what he personally couldn't do.
- He asked for the miracle of healing in pure, honest, humble faith.
- **God specializes in the IMPOSSIBLE in order to prove that all things are POSSIBLE with Him.**
- If you want Jesus to take note of your need, then have amazing faith in Him!

⁸ *For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

- **#4 This centurion obeyed AUTHORITY.**
- He saw Jesus as a man with AUTHORITY because he was familiar with authority.
- He knew that all Jesus had to do was issue an order and it would be done.
- **Because he saw Jesus as the absolute authority, he knew that Jesus' WORDS were absolutely authoritative.**
- **The centurion's faith was simple but not SIMPLISTIC.**

⁹ *When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."* ¹⁰ *Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.*

- Jesus did not **EXPECT** to find great faith **OUTSIDE** of Israel. He marveled at a Roman centurion, whose background and circumstances ought to have made it difficult for him to have faith, yet in spite of all the circumstances that went against him, he believed in Jesus' authority.
- **And Jesus did something BEYOND what the centurion suggested and** healed the centurion's slave **without saying a word.** He did it to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he is the Son of God with all authority given to him over sickness, disease and death and that He will honor an **AMAZING FAITH.**

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) *"Without faith it is impossible to please God"*

- **Faith not only moves mountains, but it moves GOD.**
- I think that Jesus is amazed at our lack of faith today.

Whatever situation you are in, know from this story that your situation may seem hopeless, but you are not helpless.

- **We serve an amazing God who wants to do the impossible in you so that others will see that with God all things are possible.**
- **Faith is not believing that God can, but faith is knowing that He WILL.**
- **Would your faith and your walk impress Jesus?**