

Matthew 8:5-13

What Jesus is Amazed by! (The King and His Kingdom)

Intro: King and His Kingdom: New section the power of the King

A) Last week – Jesus exercises Power over the incurable disease of Leprosy.

B) He cleansed a leper of his disease with His spoken word –

1) **Healed his heart with His touch!**

C) Today I fully intended to – move on to the Story of Jesus stilling the storm.

But as you know on Wednesday nights – Matthew gospel {Big picture: Verse by verse

A) This week – looked at Jesus ministering to **3 outcasts in Jewish society** – Leper/Gentile/Woman

B) The More I studied the story of this Gentile the Lord kept impressing on my heart –

1) Something more for us –

C) There are some aspects of this story that are incredibly relevant for our culture today

So next weekend – Storms – Today Centurion

Read the text – jump in

5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

7 And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

8 The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!

11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and

Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

V.5 Gives us the setting of this scene in the Life of Jesus: Capernaum

A) Capernaum was the largest of 17 fishing villages located there in Galilee

B) Capernaum was located on a trade route that ran to the sea and then South through Tiberias and on up to Jerusalem.

C) Because of that there was a tax office there.

1) This is **where Matthew lived and worked.** Prior to his conversion

Tax booth – and everyday behind him would stand a Roman soldier with a Spear.

A) His presence – communicated that this Tax collector had the authority of Rome to collect taxes

B) And **there was a Centurion there:**

C) A Centurion was over 100 men {Century – 100 yrs So he is over 100 men – **25 year commitment**

1) Commando’s – Navy Seal – Army Ranger

D) These men were the engine that fueled the Roman Army. **Backbone of the Roman legions**

We meet several Centurions in the NT –

A) They all seem to be men of Character

B) Cornelius – Godly man

1) Antonio Fortress rescued Paul

C) Centurion at the Cross - **Surely Son of God**

This Centurion in Matthew 8 is stationed in Judea

A) Judea was the **least desired position** in the Roman empire.

B) The reason is there was so much animosity from the Jewish people toward the Romans.

1) **They despised Rome** – and viewed them only as an oppressor.

C)The Jews tended to despise all gentiles in general

1)Many rabbi's in that day taught that – **the only real purpose for gentiles was to be a log that fueled the fires of hell**

So Judea was filled with a great deal of Social and Racial tension

A)So **imagine working** in an environment where the people all around you saw only one purpose for you life – **A LOG TO FUEL THE FIRES OF HELL**

B)Yule Log for Christmas – not as a gift – but as a reminder: Your Destiny

C)So this man is working in that type of environment – and yet he is a very interesting character

D)As we consider this man and this encounter with Jesus -

What Can we learn from this Centurion?

#1 He teaches us about the value of all human life.

#2 He teaches us about Authority

#3 He teaches us about Faith

#1 He teaches us about the value of all human life

A)It is interesting to me that he is concerned about his servant.

B)See that was **unusual**. There were 60 million slaves in the Roman empire.

C)The Romans simply viewed slaves as property, if your slave became sick –

1)Just put him out of his misery and get a new one.

D)They were like an appliance – Breaks – you can't fix it – you get a new one

We recently went through this: A Gas wall oven in our Kitchen – Over 20yrs old

A)Broke a couple of times – fixed – hasn't been running right long time – broke again

B)Well here is what we discovered – They don't make double gas ovens anymore

1)Single Gas yes – not a double – so to get a double oven – have to convert to electricity

C)Problem: run that amperage to our kitchen – new line big project – tear up the house

So a guy at Home Depot suggested – A lot of companies have a Vault – rebuild one of these

A)Company – Oven Maid – Doesn't exist anymore

B)Find out – our Oven is considered an Antique

C)So now I am trying to sell Denise on this Vintage idea – Antique – let's just fix it again

1)Not happening – Time to get rid of the thing

That is how the Romans looked at a Slave – Appliance – broke – Junk yard – Kill it

A)**The Romans killed their slaves** for serious things like in subordination or running away

B)And for trivial things like dropping a platter or cooking a lousy meal

C)They discarded them so easily because they were only property.

1) This Centurion is different – **Values His Servant**

Luke in his gospel tells us the servant was at the point of death. Matt – paralyzed and tormented

A)Now this Centurion had pledged himself to Rome – and to Caesar as Lord

B)He no doubt has prayed to the gods of Olympus for his servant, but the servant only got worse.

C)He has watched Jesus – **heard about the miracles** – Something different about Jesus

1)Draws him –

D)And this point of desperation – he comes to Jesus and calls him Lord –

1)**Does the unthinkable** for a man in his position – Roman Commando - **Pleading – begging**

E)He sees his servant as not a broken vessel that needs to be discarded –

1)But a **valued life that deserves to be saved**

This no doubt impressed Matthew – because it is exactly what He saw in Jesus.

A)When he writes of his own calling in Matthew chapter 9 – His conversion.

B) This is how he records it in Matthew 9:9 ⁹ As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

C) What is so significant about that?

Mark's gospel says that Jesus saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office.

Luke says that Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi.

D) Tax collectors were hated – traitors – sell out thieves

Matthew's own record that says something vastly different that Jesus saw a man, named Matthew

A) Matthew said: Jesus looked at me as a lost man

B) Later invites all his friends {Why spend time

C) Jesus – It's the Sick that need a Physician –

Luke in his gospel tells us that the religious leaders in Capernaum came forward to Vouch for this man.

A) "This man is worthy because he loves our nation and has built a synagogue here in Capernaum.

B) Think about that statement: He is living amongst a group of people who hate him

1) They see him a bully – an oppressor – he is good for nothing – Fuel the fires of Hell.

C) He has the power and Authority to oppress them

1) He uses his resources to bless them – He builds them a house of worship

D) Ruins you can still see in Capernaum today

Think about that: You have a neighbor – pain – nuisance – mean – stink eye

A) Build you a new house / Buy you a new car

B) Repays – Anger and animosity with Kindness

C) This man has stepped beyond the all the prejudice and bigotry and social boundaries

1) He has risen above all of that to help the people he is serving – many who despise him

D) Result - He has earned the trust of many – and the testimony that he loves our nation

This Centurion is a Challenge to all of us.

A) He is a man who believes there is a right way and a wrong way to treat another human being

B) We live in a culture: Much Division, Tension Prejudice and Bias.

C) Politically – Religiously – socially and racially

1) It is all around us

D) It is easy to get caught up in it as believers

1) Media that feeds the tension

The challenge for us is to rise above all of that and see that Jesus values all men and women.

A) He doesn't see Color – doesn't see Race – He sees men and women – Lost or found

B) He values all races and people. – He left heaven and came to this earth – Die – for man!

1) Not certain men or women but all humanity

C) Jew and Gentile alike –

1) Heaven Scene: People from every tribe – every tongue and every nation

Jesus is the Answer to all this tension:

A) He invites us to be a part of His Kingdom – Representatives – Ambassadors

B) Because of that I am going to treat my co-workers the right way.

C) My neighbors the right way – See them as people Jesus loves

1) I am not going to stereotype people based on race or age or background or how they are dressed.

When I see someone who is blatantly living in a lifestyle that is in rebellion to God's word

A) I am not going to assume they know what they are doing is wrong

B) Satan is a great Deceiver and liar

1) So rather than throw stones at these people

C) I am going to pray for them and try and love them into the kingdom.

D) And when I have the opportunity to speak with them about their lifestyle

1) I am going to seek to share the truth in love – help them catch God’s heart in the matter – for them

E) **Imagine what would happen if we lived like that** – treated people with that respect

That my friends is how this country will change.

A) Churches will change – when we see people the way that Jesus did. –

B) Beatitudes – Blessed are the merciful
Pray for your enemies – those who persecute you

C) Micah 6:8 **He has shown you O man what is good and what the Lord requires of you**

1) Do Justly – Love mercy – walk humbly with your God

D) This centurion is not even a believer but he is way ahead of the curve here.

1) The way he lived among those who hated him
The way he pleads for His servant

E) Puts many Christians to Shame!

He comes to Jesus and says: **“Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”**

7 And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

A) I think Matthew loves to write that – he knows the religious leaders would not step foot into the house of a Gentile.

B) Jesus doesn’t see Jew or Gentile – black or white

C) Jesus says sure – I will go -

8 The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof.

D) It is interesting that there in Luke’s gospel – The religious leaders told Jesus – this man is worthy

1) But the Centurion doesn’t see himself in that way

E) What is the Difference: He understands something about Jesus – the religious leaders completely missed

#2 He teaches us about Authority!

8 The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

This man understands Authority:

A) He had pledged his life to serving Rome – He bowed his Knee to Caesar

B) He had the power and Kingdom of Rome behind him

1) He says if I say to my men go – he goes – come – he comes – do this they do – UNDER MY AUTHORITY

C) He says to Jesus I recognize that you are also a man of AUTHORITY. – Different Kingdom

You have authority in another realm – You have authority over sickness and Disease

A) You don’t need to come to my house – **just speak the Word and my servant will be made well.**

B) You have authority over the unseen realm

C) Very important truth: **The authority that you and I walk in is directly connected to the throne that we bow the knee to.**

D) Question is who do we bow the knee to?

E) When **Jesus speaks the word** – how do we respond

1) Obedience – submission or reluctance

F) Who do we bow the Knee to ?

#3 He also teaches us about Faith

10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, (that is us – those who follow) “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!

We only read two times in the entire Bible where Jesus marveled.

A) BOTH TIMES in regards to FAITH!!

B)The only other place where we are told that Jesus **MARVELLED** is in Mark 6:6 as He comes to Nazareth

1) His hometown **Marveled UNBELIEF NO miracle**

HERE - He marvels at the very opposite thing.... Faith

A)And the FAITH at which he marvels is found in a Gentile.

B)WHY is that? Why not marvel at other things?

1)Because Jesus understands the immeasurable value of faith!

C)Jesus understands that

1)We can ONLY come to God by faith -

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified **by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:2

we have access **by faith** into this grace in which we stand.

Romans 1:17

*"The just shall live **by faith**."*

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk **by faith**, not **by** sight.

Hebrews 11:6

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him."

The Great Hall of Faith: Chronicles the exploits of those in the OT – Abraham – Moses – David – Gideon – Deborah

BY FAITH.....

This Centurion teaches us about Faith:

A)He had faith in the Authority of Jesus – NOT BLIND FAITH He had heard of the miracles

B)So he says to Jesus – Just speak the word.....

1)You don't need to come.

C)Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God - Romans 10:17

Think about what we have in the pages of Scripture

A)Think about what we have in our life experience with Jesus – how many times has He come through

B)What situation in your life looks impossible.

1)Do you believe that Jesus is able? – **Same yesterday today and forever!**

C)Do you have faith in His Power and Authority over that situation.

1)**Can you say Lord speak the word**

Do you have Faith in His Love FOR YOU?

A)HE DELAYS His answer – chooses to work a different way: Still trust Him

B)The Cross is our testimony of His great Love

C)Do you trust him enough – to Heal marriage

1)**Broken relationship** – {To say: Lord just speak the word - I will follow – I will do –

What is Jesus going to Marvel about in US?

A)Our Faith – Or Our unbelief

B)My life – probably both – I have my moments

1)Great Faith

C)Other times – not so much

Growing