

How to Amaze Jesus

Matthew 8:5-13

Matthew 8:5-13

- “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.’”

What Would It Take To Amaze A Being:

- Who has always existed?
 - 1Tim. 1:17 - “The King eternal, immortal, invisible”
- Who is the Co-Creator of human beings?
 - Col. 1:15-17 - “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”

What Would It Take To Amaze A Being:

- Who knows the hearts and minds of everyone?
 - Matt. 12:25 - “But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them...”
 - Luke 6:8 - “But He knew their thoughts...”
 - John 2:23-25 - “Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. 24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, 25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.”
- Who is the “author and finisher of our faith”?
 - Heb. 12:2

The Centurion Had Great Faith

- A Gentile, Roman centurion pleaded for the health of a servant paralyzed and in pain; not a beloved wife or child, but a servant.
- Though he was an officer in the Roman army and a Gentile, he understood the law of love.
 - Gal. 5:14 - For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
 - Luke 7:5 - “He loved our nation, and has built us a synagogue”

The Centurion Had Great Faith

- Although Jesus agreed to come, the man thought himself too low for the Messiah to enter his home. All he asked of Jesus was His word. He came in complete conviction that Jesus could speak a word and heal the servant.
- The Jews were constantly testing Jesus, demanding that He explain where He got the authority to say what He said .
 - Matt. 21:23 - “Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?”
 - 1Cor. 1:22 - “For Jews request a sign...”

The Centurion Had Great Faith

- How was His faith greater than that of Israel?
 - He could have not come, showing no faith.
 - He could have asked Jesus to come to his house, showing a faith similar to the faith of the Jews.
 - Instead, he chose the path of greater faith.

The Centurion Had Great Faith

- The Jews demanded proof, but it was never enough for them.
 - Mark 8:11-12 - “Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. 12 But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.”

The Centurion Had Great Faith

- The centurion understood Jesus' true power.
 - Psalm 107:19-20 - “Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses. 20 He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.”

Jesus Marveled At The Man

- God said that whatever He decided would come to pass
 - Isa. 46:9-11 - “Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,' 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.”

Jesus Marveled At The Man

- Acts 2:22-23 - “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death”
- Eph. 1:3-5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will”

Jesus Marveled At The Man

- John Calvin looked at these passages and concluded that God is completely sovereign in the universe. Everything is under His control and every thought and action has been predetermined. His conclusions overlooked a number of Biblical facts:
 - Ez. 18:30-32 - “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies, says the Lord GOD. Therefore turn and live!”

Jesus Marveled At The Man

- Joshua 24:15 - “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
- Esther 4:13-14 - “And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: ‘Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’”
- God can look at a thing He has made and be in wonder. Where do you think we got our capacity for wonder and the extremes of beauty and goodness and chaos and evil? We were made in His image.

Jesus Marvelled At The Man

- It was the centurion's choice that led Jesus to marvel.
 - He by his humility and faith chose to approach Jesus for his servant.
 - He was not raised knowing the power of God like the Jews, yet he came to the conclusion that Jesus did not have to be physically present for his servant to be healed.

Jesus Marveled At The Man

- Jesus was able to see beyond the words of the centurion and see his faith.
- He marveled because He knew the hearts of Gentiles and He knew the hearts of the Jews.
- He found no one among the Jews, who had greater advantage and therefore should have greater faith, who had a faith that would equal that of a Gentile, Roman military commander.

Jesus Marveled At The Man

- His great love

– Luke 7:2-5 - “And a certain centurion's *servant, who was dear to him*, was sick and ready to die. 3 So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, 5 *for he loves our nation*, and has built us a synagogue.”

Jesus Marveled At The Man

- His great humility
 - Luke 7:6-7 - “Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for ***I am not worthy*** that You should enter under my roof. 7 Therefore ***I did not even think myself worthy*** to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.”

Jesus Marveled At The Man

- His great faith

– Luke 7:8-10 - “For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it. 9 When Jesus heard these things, ***He marveled at him***, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, I say to you, ***I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!*** 10 And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.”

What Causes Jesus To Be Astonished?

- A Gentile Roman officer vs. Jesus' hometown fellow Jewish countrymen; from one extreme to another
 - Mark 6:1-6 - “Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, ‘Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?’ And they were offended at Him. 4 But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.’ 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief.”

What Causes Jesus To Be Astonished?

- Their lack of love; they patronized one of their own.
- Their lack of humility; they were offended that He rose above them.
- Their lack of faith; they refused to believe Him.

What Causes Jesus To Be Astonished?

- Jesus, while He was God with us, marveled at human faith. Though He was God the Son, He was moved:
 - By the faith that flourished in someone far from God,
 - And by the lack of faith in those who should have been close to God.

Application

- What will be the reaction of the Lord when He finds faith in someone today who grew up far from God and His Gospel?
- You are members of the Lord's church; YOU are the ones with the advantage. What will be the reaction of the Lord when your faith does not measure up to how close you are to Him and His Truth?