

How to Amaze Jesus

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

A. Matt. 8:5-13

B. What would it take to amaze a Being:

1. Who has always existed? - 1Tim. 1:17 - "The King eternal, immortal, invisible"
2. Who is the Co-Creator of human beings? - Col. 1:15-17
3. Who knows the hearts and minds of everyone? - Matt. 12:25; Luke 6:8; John 2:23-25
4. Who is the "author and finisher of our faith"? - Heb. 12:2

I. THE CENTURION HAD GREAT FAITH

A. A Gentile, Roman centurion pleaded for the health of a servant paralyzed and in pain; not a beloved wife or child, but a servant.

1. Though he was an officer in the Roman army and a Gentile, he understood the law of love - Gal. 5:14; Luke 7:5

B. 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.

1. The Jews were constantly testing Jesus, demanding that He explain where He got the authority to say what He said - Matt. 21:23; 1Cor. 1:22

C. How was His faith greater than that of Israel?

1. 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.
2. It was at this choice that Jesus marveled. That is, I have not found so great an instance of confidence and faith in my power, even among the Jews, as this Roman, a Gentile, has shown.

D. The Jews demanded proof, but it was never enough for them - Mark 8:11-12

1. The centurion understood Jesus' true power - Psalm 107:19-20

II. JESUS MARVELED AT THE MAN

A. God said whatever He decided would come to pass - Isa. 46:9-11

1. Acts 2:22-23; Eph. 1:3-5
2. 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.
3. His conclusions overlooked a number of Biblical facts:
 - a. Ez. 18:30-32; Josh. 24:15; Esther 4:13-14
4. 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.

B. It was the centurion's choice that led Jesus to marvel.

1. He by his humility and faith chose to approach Jesus for his servant.

2. 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.
- C. Jesus marveled because he knew the hearts of men.
1. John 2:23-25 - Jesus was able to see beyond the words of the centurion and see his faith.
 2. He marveled because He knew the hearts of Gentiles and He knew the hearts of the Jews, and 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.
 - a. His great love - Luke 7:2-5
 - b. His great humility - Luke 7:6-7
 - c. His great faith - Luke 7:8-10

III. WHAT CAUSES JESUS TO BE ASTONISHED?

- A. Mark 6:1-6 - A Gentile Roman officer vs. Jesus' hometown fellow Jewish countrymen; from one extreme to another.
1. Their lack of love; they patronized one of their own.
 2. Their lack of humility; they were offended that He rose above them.
 3. Their lack of faith; they refused to believe Him.
- B. Jesus, while He was God with us, marveled at human faith.
1. Though He was God the Son, He was moved by faith that flourished in someone far from God, and by the lack of faith in the hearts of those who should have been close to God.
- C. Application:
1. What will be the reaction of the Lord when He finds faith in someone today who grew up far from God and His Gospel?
 2. You are members of the Lord's church; YOU are the ones with the advantage.
 3. 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?