



The Ministry of the King in Matthew: Faith That Amazes!

August 12, 2018

Text: Matthew 8:5-13

If you are anything like me, it normally takes more than one time for to hear something and actually “get it.” If this is elementary to you, I apologize in advance, but pray you have patience with those of us who need this reminder:

Man’s primary purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!

- 1 Corinthians 6:20 (ESV) **20** for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- 1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) **31** So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- Romans 11:36 (ESV) **36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
- Revelation 4:11 (ESV) **11** “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

A life lived for any other purpose is a wasted life. As a people who understand our purpose, it is safe to assume that we want to please the God who created us. The writer of Hebrews instructs us that it is impossible to please God without faith. My prayer is that those who hear this message and are sons and daughters of God will be encouraged to seek to please Him even more and in greater ways. I also pray that those who hear this message will prick the hearts of the unsaved and have a greater awareness of their lack of ability to please God.

Our text today is about a Roman Centurion who made the Son of God marvel.

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

- Centurion - A Roman officer in charge of at least 80 men in a Roman legion. Their job was to drill their men, inspect their arms, food and clothing, and to command them in the camp and in the field.
- The relationship between the Romans and Jews was strained. Throughout the history of the Roman occupation, revolt was on the mind of many Jews but they differed in their approach. Some wanted a violent overthrow of the Roman leadership while others thought cooperation was the best way.

THE CENTURION

Luke's account of this story provides some additional details that shed more light on this Centurion.

Luke 7:1-10 (ESV) 7 After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. 2 Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. 3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, 5 for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." 6 And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. 7 Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. 8 For I too am a man set under authority, with 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 turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." 10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

The Jewish Elders who spoke on behalf of the Centurion stated, "he loves our nation" and "he is the one who built us our synagogue". This Centurion expressed his love for the nation of Israel by funding, or contributing to the building where Jews would gather for prayers, and listen to the reading and exposition of the scriptures.

WHAT IS FAITH?

Easton's Bible Dictionary states this about faith: "Faith is in general the persuasion of the mind that a certain statement is true. Its primary idea is trust. A thing is true, and therefore worthy of trust."

Contrary to some erroneous teaching, faith is NOT a force (think Star Wars), that allows you to get whatever you want. The faith that made Jesus marvel was marked by a high view of **Him**. The centurion's exchange with Jesus showed he had a view of Jesus (**as one who possessed great authority**) that was truer than the religious leaders of the day (they wanted to kill Jesus). We can easily fall into the trap the Pharisees and Scribes were in by not trusting what God has revealed to us about Himself. Trust the Word!

ADDITIONAL READING:

Read Psalm 95-97 (Help us to see Him as High and lifted up.)

Read Hebrews 11 (Look at God's track record. He can be trusted.)