

Marvelous Faith

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Matthew 8:5-13

“Marvelous Faith”

Introduction: The African impala can jump to a height of over 10 feet and cover a distance of greater than 30 feet. Yet these magnificent creatures can be kept in an enclosure in any zoo with a 3-foot wall. The animals will not jump if they cannot see where their feet will fall. Faith is the ability to trust what we cannot see, and with faith we are freed from the flimsy enclosures of life that only fear allows to entrap us. John Emmons.

Successful soldier, a centurion...

1) Is Selfless

Asking help for someone else – his servant

Pleading: To call out to, to earnestly call to your side

“An amazing faith makes amazing requests”

To call out for help! To come to the end of yourself...

- (get past our pride)(when you ask for help, you get it)

If you were drowning (John in H.S.)

“We cannot care how it “looks” to follow Jesus”

Is the same in public as it is in private.

Luke: The centurion cares deeply for the Jewish people, helped build the temple/synagogue

He is now pleading with Jesus in the open streets with friends and neighbors all around.

No white washed tombs!!!

Matthew 23:27-28 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness. “Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

An amazing faith will not change

People, circumstances or settings will not influence a marvelous faith

Pleading for his servant and *nothing for himself*...

Concern for the servant

Miraculous faith is a humble faith... it bows down.

Is Selfless

2) Is Humble

His request was entirely selfless and purely humble.

When is the last time you yielded to someone else's authority?

Bows down

He was not holding to his power, authority or rank, but the authority of Jesus.

"Not worthy"

Not Worthy!!! Unfit, insufficient, I don't deserve you

- Jesus ate with sinners
- People begged Jesus to come to their homes
- This man saw the vast difference between himself and the Savior

*Not that he can't approach Jesus but how he approaches Jesus.
God doesn't answer us because we deserve it!!!*

Knees are bowed and our tongues confess Jesus as Lord

Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lord: Kyrios (Ku-ree-os) owner, supreme master, decision maker

You are the supreme master, the owner of everything, the decision is yours to make. You make the call... I'm just asking for help!

Jesus is the one who holds eternity in His hands

Great White throne (Revelation 20)

Revelation 20 - earth will flee from His presence, living and dead are judged.

If you ever think that you are a lot like Jesus, you're starting to think a lot like Satan. - there will forever be a vast difference between who we are and who Christ is.

Authority and understanding, Humility isn't power vs. weakness

"I am under authority and I have authority"

Authority: Liberty of doing as one pleases

To truly call Jesus Lord is to say but also believe the Jesus can do whatever He wants to do.

Daniel 10:12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

The moment you long to understand and you acknowledge the King, not only does faith become amazing faith, but amazing things begin to happen.

Who out-ranks who? Does the Lord out-rank you? (love the unloving)

Is Selfless

Recognizes authority

3) Is Confident

Just speak a "word" (logos) and my servant will be healed. (John 1)

Confidence came before the answer

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Jesus taught differently... loved, spoke, lived differently

Absolute confidence in the Lord's authority

Wind and seas (storms stop at His command) Mark 4 wind/sea obey Him

Demons (tremble at His presence) Matthew 8:16 with a word

Death (Widows son) Luke 7 "I tell you, arise"

- Sun will rise (Chicken little)

What was his faith in?

Pray believing but believing what?

Not in the Lord's will but in the Lord's authority

Didn't ask if He was able, just asked if He was willing

We don't know what God is going to do

But

We know that God can do anything

All through scripture "If you are willing" NOT "If you are able"

We are to pray believing... in what? God's will or God's authority?

"You can know what God is able to do but you cannot claim to know what God is going to do."

Is Selfless

Recognizes authority

Absolutely confident

4) Is Secure

"Jesus marveled"

MARVELED: to be in wonder, to admire

Paintings in a museum

Faith & Eternity are inseparable

This man's faith reminds Jesus of eternity

Salvation is an issue of faith

Not nationality (*East and West*)

Not of inheritance...

Doesn't matter who mom and dad are.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood. Out of every tribe (*12 tribes*) and tongue and people and nation.

There are two sides to eternity as there are two sides to faith

Mark 6:6 the only other time we see Jesus "marvel"

Darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth

Two-fold

1. not with the Light

2. weeping and gnashing of teeth vs. having the Lord wipe away your tears

Note: eternity is addressed before the healing takes place.

Is Selfless

Recognizes authority

Absolutely confident

Is Secure

5) Is Answered

Start asking

1. *Marvelous Faith sees miraculous things take place*

- The Lord will never answer a prayer that isn't prayed

- But it's not possible? Perfect, pray for it!

- To give control to Jesus means you need to let go of control yourself.

2. Are you living under the authority of Jesus?

Then walk confidently trusting in Jesus.