



## Matthew 8:5-13

### Message Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBIRaauuXz0>

#### Matthew 8:10

*When Jesus heard this, **he was amazed**. Turning to those who were following him, he said, “I tell you the truth, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel!”*

- Someone did something that Jesus was so impressed with!
- Nothing can disqualify you from His love, but you can live a life to please Him.

#### Faith of the Centurion

##### Matthew 8:5-13

*When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, “Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain.”*

*Jesus said, “I will come and heal him.”*

*But the officer said, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my slaves, ‘Do this,’ they do it.”*

*When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, “I tell you the truth, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel! And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

*Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, “Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened.” And the young servant was healed that same hour.*

- Reminiscent of a Hollywood movie where you find out toward the end of the movie that the “bad guy” is secretly a good guy.
  - Roman Centurions were the bad guys.
  - Best of the best, brutal of the brutal.
  - Worked their way up the ranks
- Many healings in the following chapters.
  - Jesus is still in the healing business.
  - Jesus healed a man with leprosy at the beginning of the chapter by touching him.
    - He was healed immediately.
- Jesus never sees, touches, or speaks to the servant and the healing doesn't happen immediately.
  - God is not about a process, He is about being personal.
  - He customizes His blessing and miracles.
  - Don't put Jesus in a little God box.
  - He responds to individual things in unique ways

#### Matthew 8:10

- Jesus was astonished by his FAITH.
- God is looking for faith.
  - Faith is not a feeling.
    - Emotions are a part of the equations, but faith is a choice.
    - It is an act of will.
  - Faith is a decision made, often, in spite of what you feel.
- Hebrews 11:6
 

*And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.*
- Ephesians 6:16
 

*In addition to all of these, hold up the **shield of faith** to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.*

  - The centurion's faith is so big, his faith protects him AND his servant.

#### How do I grow my faith?

- Romans 10:17

*So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.*

- Exposure to God's truth.
- The more you are exposed to His Word and information, the more your faith will grow.
- As I take in more information, it changes what I think and what I do.
  - Don't over spiritualize your faith.
  - Do your research.

Where did the centurion hear about Jesus?

- He grew up worshipping idols
- But he was open and self aware enough to look himself in the mirror and see his pagan religion wasn't working.
  - He still felt empty inside.
- God met him where he was.

Biblical CSI

- Luke 7:3-5

*When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some respected Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his slave. So they earnestly begged Jesus to help the man. "If anyone deserves your help, he does," they said, "for he loves the Jewish people and even built a synagogue for us."*

- The Centurion is speaking through religious leaders bringing his message to Jesus.
- They speak positively of him to convey him as kind and compassionate.
- He cared about his servant.
- Matthew 5-7 is the Sermon on the Mount.
  - There was a large crowd gathered.
    - Where there is a crowd, there is crowd control: centurions.
  - Jesus said so many powerful, life-changing things in the Sermon on the Mount
    - "Go 2 miles"

- Jesus told Jews to show compassion to the centurions.
    - “Love your enemies”
      - Jesus told Jews to love the centurions
- Luke 3
  - There was a crowd around John the Baptist.
  - Roman soldiers came to him asking how they could be right with God.
    - What if this centurion was there?
  - What if the centurion was there when John The Baptist told the crowds that Jesus is the Lamb of God?
- When he was posted to Galilee, what if he was disappointed?
  - Nothing happens in Galilee, but GOD was waiting for him in Galilee.

God will get you to your Galilee to get you to your Jesus.

Choose faith.

# Discussion Starters

*Remember to pick and choose which questions  
make the most sense for your LifeGroup.*

1. How can we live a life to please Jesus? How can we amaze Him?
2. When have you thought someone to be a “bad guy”, but turned out to be a “good guy”?
3. What evidence have you witnessed that Jesus is still in the healing business?
4. When has God customized His blessing or miracle for you?
5. Share a time when God’s blessing, provision, and/or miracle came in an unexpected way?
6. Have you ever compared someone else’s miracle and answer to prayer to yours? What did that look like?
7. Have you ever had to make a faith decision in spite of how you felt? Please explain.
8. How have you seen your faith protect you and those close to you?
9. How do you, personally, stay exposed to God’s Truth to grow your faith?
10. When has God met you where you are, like He met the Centurion while he was simply doing his job?
11. Share about a time you were disappointed to go to your “Galilee”, but God was waiting there for you.