

Jesus marvelled

Luke 7:1-28

An Unusual Thing Occurs Here

1. A Centurion - A Roman - not a believer - **has greater faith** than anyone in Israel
2. A man- "none greater than John the baptist" - **has doubts about Jesus**

Luk 7:1-10 ESV 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.

Faith...(where did it come from?)

vs 2 The centurion had a desperate *NEED*

There was nothing the Centurion could do for his servant - He was SEEKING for HELP

Desperate People Come to Jesus

- The 10 Lepers --- The two blind men --- man with demon-possessed son
- vs 22 - Jesus actually came to minister to DESPERATE PEOPLE
 - the blind --- the lame --- lepers --- the deaf --- the dead --- the poor

A Desperate NEED is often the catalyst that moves us to SEEK

Think of the last time you were desperate? --- Who or what did you turn to?

Did you think of calling on the LORD? --- Point desperate people to Jesus.

vs 3 The centurion HEARD about Jesus

- Rom 10:17 ESV So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

There is something about hearing - stirs my heart - causing faith to grow

- David heard Goliath and his heart was stirred to action
- Mark 5:25-29 ESV ... a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years,

(26) and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. (27) **She had heard the reports about Jesus** and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. (28) For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." (29) And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

- Mark 5:18-19 ESV As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. (19) And he did not permit him but said to him, "**Go home to your friends and tell them** how much the Lord has **done for you**, and how he has had mercy on you."

APPLICATION We need to talk about the greatness of Jesus - so that when people come to that place of desperation - they will have a sense of who they can call upon - **What are the things Jesus has done for us? --- Can we easily recall them? --- Do we talk about them?**

vs 4 The centurion sent elders to ASK Jesus to heal his servant

- Jas 4:2 KJVye have not, because ye ask not.
- Mark 10:46-52 ESV ... Bartimaeus, a **blind beggar** ... (51) And Jesus said to him, "**What do you want me to do for you?**" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight."
- Hebrews 11:6 ESV And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that **he rewards those who seek him.**

APPLICATION: What do you want him to do for you- what have you asked for

- Ephesians 3:20 ESV Now to him who is able to do **far more abundantly** than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

vs 6 The centurion was humble & recognized the AUTHORITY of Christ

- He was humble - The Jews believed he was worthy - **He saw himself differently**
 - vs 4 He is worthy to have you do this for him
 - vs 6 **LORD I am not worthy** that you should come under my roof
- He understood authority and acknowledged the authority of Jesus
- He was a man of power - but recognized he was powerless in this instance
- He was a strong man - yet recognized only the words of Jesus could heal
- **The WORDS of Christ are central to this story and our growth in faith**

Jesus MARVELED at his faith!!!

Most of the time the word MARVEL (admire -- marvel -- wonder) is used - to describe how **man MARVELLED at the amazing things the LORD was doing**

- The wind and sea obey him Matthew 8:27
- He told a lame man picked up his bed and walk Matthew 9:8
- A devil was cast out and a man who was dumb could speak Matthew 9:33

But twice in the Scripture Jesus marvelled - both times it centered around faith

1. Here at the faith of the Centurion
2. And at Mark 6:6 at his hometown's unbelief

Jesus is moved by the faith or lack thereof..

- Matt 14:31 Oh you of little faith - why did you doubt?- **Peter on the water**
- Matt 8:26 You of little faith - why were you so afraid - **boat in the storm**

Jesus was moved by compassion

Luk 7:11-17 Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. 12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." 15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. 16 Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" 17 And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

This is simply the grace and compassion of God in healing

- Another desperate situation
- No apparent faith
- No hearing about Jesus
- No asking
- No one speaking on her behalf - "She is worthy for you to do this"
- **Again it is the words of Jesus that brought the miracle - vs 14 "And He Said"**

This is important to know --- since many times we struggle with faith --- doubt --- whether or not I have faith --- the right kind of faith --- believing the right way --- saying the right prayers etc ---

- I want you to know we serve a compassionate God
- We are not looking for formulas for getting our prayers answered --- we are looking to Him

Doubt...

Luk 7:18-23 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two

of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 20 And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" 21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them." 23 And blessed is the one **who is not offended by me.**" 24 When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 25 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. 26 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and **more than a prophet.** 27 This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" 28 I tell you, among those born of women **none is greater than John.** Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

John is now questioning / doubting

vs 19 Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?

- **This was JOHN** - none greater --- the prophet to prepare the way --- the messenger --- the forerunner --- the one who saw the dove descend upon Jesus --- the one who said behold the lamb of God --- the one who said He must increase I must decrease --- the one who encouraged HIS followers to follow Jesus

vs 23 Jesus indicated he was scandalized [Gk“skandalon”] - offended

Why the doubts - how did he become scandalized?

- Because he was in prison?
- Because he was disillusioned or in despair?
- Because his expectation was not met? - expecting a military leader like David

At some time or another most of us face doubts. --- Is Christianity is true? --- Is the bible truly the word of God? --- Is there really a heaven and a hell?

How Jesus ministered to the scandalized

Jesus pointed him to Scripture for reassurance (this is the only answer)

vs 21 "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.

- He pointed to scripture - to activities that identified the Messiah
 - (Isaiah 61:1 & 35:5)
- To deal with doubt we must rely on God's revelation
- To deal with doubt - where can I go only you have the words (John 6:68)

Jesus upheld John for who he IS in HIM - even when he had doubts...

- vs 24 Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John
- MORE than a prophet
- NONE GREATER than John

APPLICATION: though we may have doubts

1) it is only the word of God that can address those

2) Jesus does not cast us aside when we have doubts

- Matthew 28:16-17 KJV Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. (17) And when they saw him, they worshipped him: **but some doubted.**