



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Encounters with Jesus – Amazing Grace, Amazing Faith

Speaker: Rich Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Luke 7:1-10

“When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

Luke 7:1-10

Sermon Outline:

- I. Jesus is AMAZED by the centurion’s faith.
- II. The Roman centurion was a man with authority and power. He was used to giving commands and having them followed without question or hesitation.
- III. The Roman centurion found himself in a situation where he felt powerless. His servant was sick and dying, and the centurion knew that he had no authority to change the situation.
- IV. In our own lives we may have authority in some areas but none in other areas. We have two options: 1) living out of our own strength and 2) to put our trust in Jesus.
- V. The Roman centurion tells Jesus to not come...and Jesus is amazed by this man’s faith. (This is one of two times in the scriptures where Jesus is amazed. In Mark 6:5-6, Jesus is amazed at their *unbelief*.)
- VI. The centurion did not have a sense of entitlement. Other people told Jesus that the centurion deserved Jesus help, but the centurion realized that he had no claim to Jesus’ help. He realized that God’s blessings were not something that he could earn, but God’s blessings are given out of sheer grace.
- VII. The religious people of Jesus’ day, and even those closest to him, did not recognize Jesus’ authority, presence and power. In telling Jesus not to come, the centurion acknowledges that he truly knows who Jesus is. He also realizes that Jesus is under God’s authority and carries the same power that God has. The centurion realizes that Jesus has authority and power to simply send the word. Jesus is shocked by this man’s faith. And even more shocking is that the centurion is an outsider.
- VIII. The centurion has no shame in asking for help. His faith amazes Jesus that he invites Jesus’ help. And the centurion’s faith says to other people that he can’t do it alone.
- IX. This is an invitation for us to invite Jesus in to any situation we are facing. And to not live in isolation.
- X. Living the kind of faith that amazes Jesus emerges from a person that is amazed by Jesus. The more we behold Jesus, the more we are amazed by Him.
- XI. Sharing in communion we are amazed by Jesus.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Pastor Rich explores the faith of a Roman centurion that amazes Jesus!

Sermon Questions:

- I. What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why?
 - How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? How so?

- Jesus was amazed by the centurion's belief that he was unworthy of Jesus' help. The centurion did not have a sense of entitlement, that he deserved Jesus' help. God's blessings are not earned, but we are blessed because of sheer grace. Even when we are not living with Jesus at the center of our lives, Jesus loves us anyway. Are you living with a sense of entitlement? Give thanks to God that His love and blessings are a gift and we are blessed even though we are totally undeserving!
- What situation in your life right now are you feeling powerless?
- When was the last time you were amazed by Jesus?
- What amazes you about Jesus today?
- Are you living the kind of faith that amazes Jesus? What's one thing you can do or step you can take to begin cultivating a deeper sense of amazement for Jesus' extravagant love?
- The centurion's encounter with Jesus was not solely for him. He was to be a sign and wonder for the people around him. His faith in admitting he was powerless to Jesus and other people and seeking out Jesus' help even though he knew he was not worthy is an invitation from Jesus. Where do you sense that God is asking you to invite Him in?