



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“AMAZED”

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Without question, Jesus amazed people while on earth. The disciples who had been with Him on countless occasions never lost their sense of amazement towards Him. The withered fig tree, walking on the water, healing of the paralytic, raising the dead back to life, and even just by the way He taught with authority were but a few instances that awed and bewildered His followers. But Jesus, on occasion, was Himself amazed. On every occasion, faith was the focus of His amazement.

1. Instances that amazed Jesus:

- He was amazed by the faith of the bleeding woman (Mk. 1:22).
- He was amazed by the lack of faith of the people in His hometown in (Mk. 6:6).
- He was amazed by the faith of the Roman centurion (Mt. 8)

2. The Faith of the Centurion (Mt 8)

After finishing the sermon at the Mount, Jesus returned to Capernaum where a Roman officer approached Jesus and appealed on behalf of his sick servant whom he deeply cared for. He, was one of the most unlikely men that would impress Jesus.

2.a What Jesus saw:

- He made an appeal to Jesus. He could have demanded anything because of his stature, but he simply related the condition of his servant.
- He was compassionate to his servant.
- He was respectful. He was a Roman while Jesus was a Jew; Romans did not owe respect to Jews at that time.
- He honored Jesus. He called Jesus Lord.

- He didn't even make a direct appeal for healing. He simply reported his servant's condition
- He was polite.
- He recognized the authority of Jesus. He knew Jesus' words had power.

2.b. Jesus' response: I will come and heal him

Why this was remarkable:

- The Jews were basically forbidden to enter the houses of anyone who was not Jewish.
- Jesus could have healed the centurion's servant from a distance away.
- Jesus had condemned Capernaum because people were unrepentant despite the many miracles that Jesus performed (Mt 11:23-24).
- Jesus loved all people, even the Romans.

3. Jesus was amazed (Mt 8:10)

- Without faith, it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6)
- “Take delight in Me and I will give the desires of your heart. (Ps. 37:4)”

Conclusion: Jesus has no boundaries. Jesus reveals the heart of the Father, a heart that is not selfish, begrudging, nor stingy. He is not limited by time or space. God is pleased when people approach Him in faith. Faith honors God and God honors faith. When we come to Jesus in need, He is more than willing to help than we are more willing to ask. Even before we finish praying, God has already answered us (Is. 65:24).

Reflection: Do you believe that you can move mountains?

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