

Sermon Title: What makes Jesus Amazed?

- When was the last time... that you were amazed?
  - I read an article a couple of months ago about a guy named Jakob Ingebrigtsen, who just broke the world record for a 2-mile run.
  - He ran 2 miles in 7:54.10! That is back to back miles under 4 minutes! Most of us would be considered in good shape if we ran 1 mile in under 8 minutes, this guy ran 2!
  - Just to give you an idea of how long that is from here, it would be like running from the church to Marks. You can barely drive to Marks from here in 5 minutes.
- The reason I am asking you that question today is because in the story that we are going to look at today, Jesus has an encounter with a man from Rome, and in this encounter, this man actually does something that leaves Jesus... amazed.
  - If you have ever wondered what it would take to amaze God, well then today's story is for you.

**Luke 7:1-6**

- Jesus receives a request from a Roman Centurian
  - These men would have been Gentiles, and greatly disliked.
  - The original readers of Luke's Gospel would have felt an immediate tension in the room when they heard that a Roman centurian was asking a Jewish rabbi for help.
  - Jesus has just finished teaching us in Ch 6 that we are supposed to love our enemies, and now the limits of that command are being tested. Did Jesus mean love our Jewish enemies, or does that love extend even to a Roman soldier?
- The Centurian had a servant that was sick, and he asked Jesus to help through a group of Jewish Elders.
  - Most commentators believe that the Centurian would have had a relationship with the Jewish Elders, kind of a "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" relationship.
  - They pleaded with Jesus saying in verse 4 "This man deserves to have you do this."
  - Notice the difference between how the Elders approach Jesus, and the Centurian approaches Jesus.

- Instead of declaring his own authority, he acknowledges Jesus as the one with ultimate authority!
- We can learn a lot from this Centurian. If you feel like you are unworthy of Jesus, many in his day felt that way too. But Jesus flips that upside-down. He teaches us that what we need is not a resume, but the humility to acknowledge our sin, to submit ourselves under him and acknowledge that we need his help.
- And for those of us that have been following Jesus for a while, we might tend to think like the Jewish Elders, but I think we need to be careful to never bring an "I deserve" mentality to God.

- The Centurian changes his mind in verse 7, because he knows Jesus is a man of great authority.
  - The Centurian understood authority because he was an extension of Caesar in his job.
- When Jesus heard this from a man he had never met, it says that Jesus was amazed!

**Mark 6:4-6**

**Matthew 8:10-12**

**Luke 8:25**

Four Observations that we should pay attention to in our story:

1. Jesus's Kingdom is for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Throughout the gospels, the religious people tended to focus on and care for those on the inside, while Jesus cared for and focused on those on the outside.
2. Jesus is a King with unparalleled \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. When we see Jesus for who he truly is, we don't make him our life coach, we make him our King!
3. Jesus's Kingdom requires \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. While what Jesus did on the cross is available to everyone, it is not automatically applied to everyone. Becoming a follower of Jesus requires enough humility to ask Jesus for forgiveness.
4. Jesus is amazed by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. What does it mean to have faith? Football analogy
  - b. Jesus is looking for people who will rightly acknowledge him as the king he truly is, and people who will trust him with their lives.
  - c. When we live by faith, the Bible teaches us that God will notice.