



## *The King and His Kingdom*      *Matthew 8*

### **Jesus' Amazing Miracles; and What Amazed Jesus**

Miracles recorded in Chapter 8:

- The man with Leprosy
- The servant of the Centurion
- The mother-in-law of Peter
- Demon possessed and...
- Many who were sick (brought to Peter's house)
- Calms the storm on the Sea of Galilee
- The two violent, demon-possessed men, sending the spirits into the herd of pigs who then went over a cliff

#### **1st- The man who amazed Jesus: Matt 8:5-11**

Luke 7 fills in a few interesting, insightful details:

- It was actually "some Elders of the Jews" who came. These were respected Elders from Capernaum who held the Centurion in high regard.

*When they came to Jesus, they **pleaded earnestly** with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, 5 because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue."*

- Before Jesus arrives the Centurion "sent friends..."
- The Centurion actually did not speak directly with Jesus because *"I do not deserve to have you come under my roof..."* and *I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you..."*
- The Centurion's servant is called a "*doulos*" or slave in vs. 2 but in vs. 7 he's called a "*mou pias*," =my boy or valued youth. Notice he is referred to as *valued highly* (dear, honored, of great worth-beyond money)

Key words which help us understand this story better:

Centurion: A military officer who oversees 100 other soldiers. Closest leaders oversaw 10 and 1000. Reported to Herod Antipas.

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Amazed: Wondered, marveled, admiration, astonished. The only other time Jesus is amazed is at the lack of faith among those from His hometown, Nazareth. (Mark 6:6)

In between the two stories Jesus focuses on the fact that there is a great cost when we follow Jesus. (8:14-17)

### **2nd- The disciples are amazed: 8:23-27**

Mark 4:35-41 adds some insight:

- Other boats were with them
- Traveled from north to south end of the lake
- Jesus was in the stern (back) under a seat, with his head resting on a "pillow" which was a heavy ballast bag used as a counterweight when pulling in nets
- "Don't you care if we drown?"
- "They were terrified..."

*"What kind of man is this, even the winds and waves obey him!"*

### **3rd- Healing two demon-possessed men: 8:28-34**

*"What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" 8:29*

*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder. James 2:19*

*Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. Luke 8:30 Jesus allows the demons to enter the 2,000 pigs nearby (Mark 5:13)*

1. Questions:
  1. The story of the Centurion, who is a leader with great authority and influence, is really one of faith and humility. How do these two attributes work together?
  2. Jesus can work miracles but is our faith and trust based on whether or not He does them for us or those we care about? Study Matthew 8-9.