

Day 9

“When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, ‘Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith’” (Matthew 8:10, ESV).

In Capernaum, a Roman centurion approached Jesus on behalf of his servant, who was “lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly” (Matthew 8:6). Though Jesus agreed to go with him and heal his servant, the Roman centurion humbled himself and recognized the ultimate authority of Jesus: “Only say the word, and my servant will be healed” (Matthew 8:8). The Roman centurion was in a position of societal respect and authority over soldiers. “I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes” (Matthew 8:9). Though he held this authority, he acknowledged Jesus’ all-powerful authority. Jesus marveled at his radical, bold faith.

If we want to have faith that causes Jesus to marvel, we must humble ourselves. Humility stems from having a proper understanding of who God is and who we are. God is Lord of lords and King of kings, the Creator, the First and the Last. Understanding who we are can be tricky. False humility says, “Look at how lowly I am!” It is a type of pride. True humility says, “God loves me. I was created on purpose, for a purpose—to serve and praise God.” Humility directs the attention of others toward God.

If we want to have faith that causes Jesus to marvel, we must also submit to God’s authority. The Roman centurion appealed to Jesus to heal his servant. He came to Jesus boldly, with expectation. He put his faith in the One who heals.

Will you humble yourself before God and submit to His authority to seek the healing of others in radical, bold faith?

What might be preventing you from faith like the centurion?

Lord, I surrender to You as Lord and come to You in faith. I ask You to _____ on behalf of my friend/family member.