

## Amazing Jesus

I have five intelligent, talented and beautiful granddaughters, and I am privileged to have three of them in the building today.

However, I have only one grandson, so you can imagine how that adds to his uniqueness, to say the least.

One of the things that stands out in my memory of him growing up was that at a young age he loved to do card tricks and little magic tricks to entertain the people in his sphere of influence.

His trademark opening comment was always the same, "Prepare to be amazed!"

You really have to use your imagination to catch the flavor of his introduction, because he said it with a great deal of enthusiasm.

After all, how it would go over if he shouted, "Prepare, not to be amazed."

We have a few examples of Jesus being amazed that are very important for us to examine if we are going influence this world with our prayers and our faith in these perilous times.

Let's start this message today by looking at three biblical accounts of people that literally amazed Jesus.

*Mark 6: 1 He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.*

*2 And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?"*

*3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.*

*4 And Jesus said to them, "**A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.**"*

*5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.*



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**6 And he marveled because of their unbelief.**

So, our first example today is of people that amazed Jesus with their lack of faith.

Do we have to dwell here for very long, after all, I don't believe that we need much coaching on how to effectively pull this one off.

**Matthew 15: 21 And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.**

**22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."**

**23 But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."**

**24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."**

**25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."**

**26 And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."**

**27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."**

**28 Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.**

This woman knew that even a crumb from the table is all that it would take to heal her daughter.

However, the story that gives some meat to chew on that will help us to grow into the kind of faith that we need to see the level of change that must take place in the body of Christ, is our focus for today.

**Luke 7:1-10 After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum.**

*2 Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him.*

*3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant.*

*4 And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him,*

*5 for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue."*

*6 And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.*

*7 Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed.*

*8 For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

*9 When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, **"I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."***

*10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.*

If the centurion were here today, what do believe he would tell us about what he learned about Jesus?

#### **A. Approach Him as the source of help.**

*After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum.*

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Notice that the point is made by calling Jesus, “the,” source of help.

In the life of the child of God, there is no other source.

What might look like another source in our lives, is merely the hand of Father using different avenues to bring us our help.

Have you noticed that LSBC Ministries gives this congregation plenty of things to do?

We don’t just pray that God will feed the hungry in our city, we take advantage of opportunities to actually put food in the hands of hungry families.

It is a small step, but how many times have you heard us say that God works with humble beginnings.

Which takes us to our next point.

## **B. Focus on the needs of others.**

***4 And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy to have you do this for him,***

***5 for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue***

Notice that this man has invested his own money and efforts in helping the Jews, the conquered people he oversees, to build the present temple that they worship in.

Not only that, he is petitioning the King of the Jews, not for a blessing for himself, but a healing for a servant.

It’s no wonder that the Jewish leaders of the area were so willing to stick their necks out for a gentile like this centurion.

He had proven many times over, that he cared more for others, no matter what their nationality or race, that he truly cared for them and their needs.

Which leads us to our next point.



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### **C. Reflect a true attitude of humility.**

*6 And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.*

*7a Therefore I did not presume to come to you.*

What a beautiful and powerful representation we have in this story of true humility.

You might say, well Pastor, how do you know it was so genuine and real?

Because Jesus clearly laid it out for all of us to see.

If Jesus saw any weakness of truth in the Centurion's representation of humility, He would have known and He would have called him on it.

After all of the wonderful things he had done for the Jewish people, the Centurion was aware that he had not earned any favor with Christ, and that he still believed he was not worthy for Jesus to come under his roof.

Which leads us to our next point.

### **D. Submit to His spiritual authority**

*7b But say the word, and let my servant be healed.*

*8 For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

Because of his own authority over his officers, the centurion understood that Jesus' very words could heal.

The centurion grasped the understanding of the power Jesus held and knew neither time nor space limited the Son of God.

Jesus was amazed by the centurion's faith.

That leads us to our next point

### **E. God's amazement isn't based on our performance.**



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*9 When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, **“I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”***

*10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.*

Let's pause and consider this.

Jesus, who was the amazing one behind the astounding act of creation and every historical event since, finds the centurion's faith, amazing.

Why is that?

I see three main contributing reasons here.

### **Because the Centurion was Humble.**

Instead of using his own authority to command Jesus to come, the centurion surrenders to Jesus' greater power, and his humility touches Jesus.

### **Because the Request was Selfless.**

The centurion didn't come asking for himself or even for a close family member.

Instead, he was moved by the suffering of his servant and came to ask for a subordinate's healing.

### **His Faith was evidently and apparently, impressive.**

Because of his own authority over his officers, the centurion understood that Jesus' very words could heal.

He grasped the power Jesus held and knew neither time nor space limited the Son of God.

Jesus was amazed by the centurion's faith.