

### Amazing to Jesus

Luke 7:1-10

We begin a new series from Luke today entitled "Strange Secrets." We've finished a major section where Jesus taught His disciples, now we move into the portion of Luke where Jesus gives parables and performs miracles. We are calling it strange secrets because these are things that not all will understand. "And the disciples came to Jesus and said, 'Why do you speak unto them in parables?' He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto YOU to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but unto them it is not given" Matt 13:10-11. Miracles are the same way. People want them; but miss their meaning. Those in relationship with Jesus find that strange secrets become clear confirmations of truth.

In our text there is something about a man which amazes Jesus. Think about that one. The Man who flung the stars is 'amazed.' The One who carved the Grand Canyon marvels at a man. What was it?

#### I. There are some things in our lives that won't impress Jesus - though they will impress people.

- (A). **Our kindness....** The Centurion is a ruler of 100. He knows of Jesus. He seeks Jesus. It is expected That he be kind. His servant is sick. Sick and old slaves couldn't work. This did not set them free, it let them die in desperation. Yet this centurion shows kindness to his sick slave.
- (B). **Our generosity...**Anti-Semitism is not a 20th century invention of the Nazi party or Adolph Hitler. It has been around for a very long time and was present in the first century. The animosity and violence between the Jews and the Romans was legendary. It is surprising that this centurion even considered checking out Jewish beliefs and even funded the synagogue in Capernaum.
- (C). **Our humility....** After convincing his friends to request a special visit from Jesus, he had some second thoughts. He wondered what right he had to expect Jesus to come over to his house and give him special attention. He knew that a Rabbi like Jesus wasn't supposed to ever visit the house of a Gentile and that he was putting Jesus on the spot by asking him. In his own words: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof." (Luke 7:6).
- (D). **Our insight...** The centurion , not raised on the Scriptures or in the synagogue, knew truth.

#### II. There is one thing that will amaze Jesus about you - though other people may not be impressed.

For all the time Jesus was on earth, there are only two recorded instances of Jesus being amazed!

The first instance is found in **Mark 6:5-6**

And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any mighty miracles among them except to place His hands on a few sick people and heal them. *And He was amazed at their unbelief.*

The second instance is found in our text **Luke 7:1-10**

"Jesus marveled at him" (v. 9). Other translations say "He was amazed..." because of his faith.

- (A). The centurion had faith that Jesus could do anything.
- (B). The centurion had faith Jesus was infinitely superior.
- (C). The centurion had faith that Jesus would do the right thing.
- (D). The centurion had faith that Jesus was Lord of his universe.

Next time you are tempted to doubt Jesus, remember this:

- (1). It's more important to trust the God behind miracles than good expected from miracles.
- (2). The word of Jesus to you should be enough to sustain you, not the work of Jesus for you.
- (3). What amazes Jesus about your life is the willingness to give up control and trust Him.