

## **JESUS: FLABBERGASTED**

How often do you think Jesus was flabbergasted in His life?

Our lesson text is one of two times that Jesus was flabbergasted as recorded in the Bible. The other time was in His home town recorded in (Mk 6:6) “He wondered at their unbelief.”

What could have caused Jesus to become so flabbergasted?

(Matt.8:10a). “Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled (thaumazo / a.a.ind.1ps) [He was amazed, astonished **and flabbergasted**]

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

- |              |               |                       |          |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------|
| • Servant    | (Matt.8:5-7)  | Paralyzing ailment    | Miracle  |
| • Soldier    | (Matt.8:8-12) | Position of authority | Military |
| • Son of God | (Matt.8:13)   | Power of Almighty     | Messiah  |

Jesus was **flabbergasted** by a Gentile Roman soldier’s perception of biblical faith – “Truly I say to you, ‘I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.’” (Matt.8:10b)

**This lesson will study five aspects of Jesus becoming flabbergasted by the perception of biblical faith of Roman Centurion of our lesson text.**

### **1. When you study Matthew 8, there are at least six different opportunities to become flabbergasted.**

- Matt.8:1-4            Healing of leprosy.
- Matt.8:5-13        Healing of centurion’s servant.
- Matt.8:14-15       Healing of Peter’s mother-in-law.
- Matt.8:16-17       Casting out demons.
- Matt.8:18-27       Rebuking a stormy sea.
- Matt.8:28-34       Casting out a legion of demons (Mark 5).

Out of all these messianic miracles, Jesus was only flabbergasted by one of them. His disciples were also flabbergasted by one of these 6 miracles.

Which one do you think they were flabbergasted? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was Jesus only flabbergasted by this one specific miracle? \_\_\_\_\_

### **2. The type of miracle performed in our lesson text was no more spectacular than any other miracle Jesus performed.**

Plus it was performed with a Gentile, foreigner, and Roman soldier occupying the land of Israel under the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of divine discipline!

However, the type of faith exhibited by this Roman Centurion would pave the way for many other Gentiles to enter the messianic promise by personal faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

(Isa.49:6b; 42:6; **Acts 13:44-48**) “I will also make You a light of the nations (Gentiles) so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8; Matt.28:18-20) “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

(Lk. 2:25-33) [Nunc Dimittis] “For my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people of Israel.”

Jesus had just finished the great Sermon on the Mount (Matt.5-7). One would expect this type of faith to come from His disciples and followers. But it didn't!

**3. It came from a frontline Roman soldier occupying a foreign land who was making a request of Jesus for miraculous healing on behalf of a Jewish servant that was paralyzed (Matt.8:6).**

This is a great example of heathenism, God-consciousness (GC), Gospel hearing (GH), and Grace Salvation.

- All mankind is in need of Grace Salvation because of Adam's Original Sin (AOS) (Rom.5:12-21).
- It is God's desire that all would be saved (2 Pet.3:9).
- All mankind becomes God-conscious because he is created in the image and likeness of God (Gen.1:26-27; 1 Cor.11:7; James 3:9).
- Jesus came to save all mankind (1 Cor.15:3-4; 1Tim.1:15; Titus 2:11-14).
- God has obligated Himself to give Gospel hearing to those with God-consciousness (Acts 17:26-30).
- God will bring positive volition (PV) at GC to GH (Acts 8:25-38) as with this Roman Centurion.
- God will send missionaries to GC with GH (Paul's 4 missionary trips).

**4. The emphasis of this story is on Jesus and the Roman Centurion more than on the servant.**

The story line behind every miracle healing is to identify Jesus as the messianic Savior of the world.

A common mistake made by students of the Gospels is to place more emphasis upon the recipient's faith and the miracle rather than upon the sign that Jesus is the Messianic Savior of the world.

“For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this is a **sign** for you.” (Luke 2:11-12a; John 4:42; 1 Tim.1:10; Titus 2:13).

“And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the **Savior of the world.**” (1 Jn.4:14)

**5. This story tells us how the Roman Centurion derived the biblical concept of faith that flabbergasted Jesus.**

**He derived it from his orientation to rank and authority of the divine laws of establishment and the divine institution of the nation, i.e. the military.**

(Matt.8:9-10) “For I, too, am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ And he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it. Now when Jesus heard this, **He marveled**, and said to those who were following, ‘Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.’”

(Matt.8:11-12) “**And I say to you** that many shall come from the east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into the outer darkness; in the place that shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”