

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

More Faith – Same Authority Matthew 8:5-13

Matthew is an eye witness to the life & ministry of Jesus

- He is a Jew, writing to Jews about a Jew
- He is writing to people who know **God's history with them**
- He is writing to **confirm conclusively** their long-promised Messiah King

Matthew writes to **reveal Jesus as the One & only Messiah King!**

He writes to reveal & confirm Him in seven specific ways:

- 1) **The Presentation of The King** (1:1-4:11)
- 2) **The Proclamation of The King** (4:12-7:29)
(Concluding with the Sermon of the Mount, Ch.5-7)
- 3) **The Power of The King** (8:1-11:1)
- 4) **The Progressive Rejection of The King** (11:2-16:12)
- 5) **The Preparation of The King's Disciples** (16:13-20-28)
- 6) **The Presentation & Rejection of The King** (20:29-27:66)
- 7) **The Proof of The King** (28:1-20)

He quotes & alludes to the Old Testament **130 times**

- More than any other N.T. book

He writes **"that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled"** nine times

- It does not appear in any of the other gospels

Revealing The King, he also declares **"the kingdom of heaven"**

- He uses this phrase **32 times** in his recounting the life of Jesus
- It appears **nowhere else** in the New Testament

8:5, Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him

- Capernaum was a major commercial & social hub
- It was a Roman military garrison city
- What happened there would become known far & wide

A Centurion came to Him, pleading with Him

- A commanding Roman military officer
- Most often in uniform when in public
- In absolute authority over every non-Roman
- He called people to him, he didn't go to them

Pleading with Him

- Pleading = Imploring with need, seeking favor
- Like the leper, having no sense of belonging or deserving
- Like the leper, subjecting himself to Christ's will & authority

8:6, Saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

- Like the leper, "Lord" means **Supreme Master**
- The leper could have been stoned
- This man could have been executed for treason
- In Rome, Caesar was **God above all others**

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 Could he have asked Caesar to heal him?

- **II Kings 5:7**, Naaman & the king of Israel
- "The king of Israel tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy?"

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 "My servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

- The leper was seeking **for himself**
- This Centurion is passionately seeking **for someone else**
- Not his child, or other family member
- Someone **under his authority** he has no ability to help
- He doesn't even ask. He is convinced Jesus can heal him.
- He submits his **overwhelming need** to Jesus's **absolute authority**

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8:7, And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

- Jesus immediately says He will go and meet the need

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Matthew 15:21-28, (Vs. 26) He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

- **Why** such a different initial response?
- **John 5:19**, "The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do"
- Jesus lives in **active submission** to the Father (Wine at the wedding)

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Jesus is entirely consistent

- Not in **what** He does, but **why** He does it
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8:8-9, The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am **not worthy** that You should come under my roof. **But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.** For **I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me.** And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

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 He completely understood **the absolute authority of Jesus!**

- Far beyond human, earthly authority
- **Authority over creation!**
- He would not have asked Caesar to heal him

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 Like the leper, His faith was in **who Jesus is!**

- **Not** what He does
- Such faith lives **in submission to Christ**
- Whatever He does, or does not do

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8:10, When Jesus heard it, **He marveled, and said** to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I **have not found such great faith**, not even in Israel!"

- People **not submitted** to earthly authority...
- Are not inclined to submit to God's
- People not **unconditionally submitted** to God's authority...
- Are unlikely to withstand the shaking (**Matt. 7:24-27 & Heb. 12:26-29**)

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8:11-12, And I say to you that **many will come from east and west** (not Hebrews) **and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.** But **the sons of the kingdom will be cast out** into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- Citizenship in **the kingdom of heaven** is not genetic
 - It is gained by absolute **submission to & trust in Christ's authority**
 - God has no grandchildren
 - **Matthew 7:21** (John 5:19 & 20:21)
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8:13, Then Jesus said to the centurion, “**Go your way**; and **as you have believed**, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

- **Go your way** – Live your daily life by your faith in Me
- Just as He said to the former leper

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“**As you have believed**” = As you have entrusted yourself

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And **his servant was healed that same hour**.

- As with the leper, **when Jesus spoke it**, it happened

Unconditionally entrusted yourself to who Jesus IS...

- Regardless of what He does or does not do