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Matthew 8:5-13
Miracles of Jesus!

Jesus' miracles served to authenticate His message and ministry. In other words, the miracles of Jesus confirm that He was sent from God (John 3:17; 34), is one with God (John 10:30), and is Mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

Example: *John the Baptist called two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And at that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave to many who were blind. So He replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor"* (Luke 7:19; 21-22). Jesus' miracles were not His life-work. His miracles only served to illustrate that He had the power to do His life-work. The life-work of Jesus was His crucifixion.

This miracle is the second miracle of Jesus recorded in Matthew's gospel. The second happened in a place called Capernaum! Capernaum also known as the village of Nachum located northwest of the sea of Tiberius, in the land of Gennesaret. Interesting is the name Nachum, Nachum means the act of comforting and consoling. Capernaum was a populous and prosperous region. Capernaum was suited to be the center of the low profile but energetic ministry of Jesus in Galilee. In Capernaum Jesus was sought, beseeched by a centurion. The centurion was an uncircumcised man which means that he was a Gentile. Though he was a Gentile, he was a man of excellent faith.

The centurion sought Jesus, for his servant was sick of the palsy. Palsy *par-al-oo-tee-kos* – which means dissolved i.e. paralytic. Palsy is a term which refers to various types of paralysis. It is often accompanied by weakness and the loss of feeling and uncontrolled body movements such as shaking (Wikipedia>wiki>Palsy). Palsy is not usually accompanied with suffering. Notice the severity of the servant's palsy, Matthew's gospel added that the servant was grievously tormented. Therefore, in this case the palsy was combined with tetanus or lockjaw.

The centurion did not forsake his servant when his servant was forsaken by health. He sought Jesus for his servant.

Several things to notice about the miracle of Jesus.

- I. Jesus' Recognizes Humility:
 - A. The centurion's Humility: Jesus reacts to humility. One of the strongest messages of the Bible is the truth that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5). Humility is a prerequisite (precondition) for healing and deliverance. One of the most quoted verses concerning healing is 2 Chronicles 7:14, which states—if my people, which are called by my name, shall **humble** themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked

ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

W.F. Adeney said, *“Jesus belonged to the despised race of the subject Jews; the centurion was an officer in the proud army of the imperial government. It was difficult for a Roman not to despise a Jew. There must have been something very fine in the nature of this man to allow of his having emancipated himself from the prejudices of his social group, so as to be able to perceive the greatness of Jesus and to feel lowly and humble by the side of Him. A low estimate of one’s self helps one to look up to the greatness of Jesus; at the same time, it tries faith by creating a sense of utter unworthiness.”*

The centurion had a deep sense of unworthiness, for that reason he did not come to Jesus in person. According to Luke 7 the centurion sent the elders of the Jews to Jesus. The centurion felt unworthy to even draw near to Jesus. In desperation, he came himself, still in unworthiness.

- B. The centurion’s respect for Jesus: the centurion called Jesus “Lord.” The word “Lord” is *Kyrios koo’-ree-os* which means supreme in authority, i.e. controller, it is a respectful title—God, Lord, Master, Sir (King James Bible Dictionary, Strong’s G2962). “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof.” He thought himself unworthy of Jesus’ presence in his house. The word “worthy” is *hikanos* which mean fit, appropriate, deserving, and sufficient. The centurion said he was “not” worthy which means he was not fit, not appropriate, not deserving of Jesus’ presence.

- II. Jesus’ Power to heal: the centurion believed that Jesus had power to heal. The centurion knew that his servant didn’t need a physical touch to be healed. He believed Jesus’ power to heal through His word. The power of Jesus is made manifest in His word.

The miracle shows:

- A. Jesus’ power over disease:
- B. Jesus’ power over distance: The centurion said in verse 8, ***“Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.”***
- C. Jesus’ power to save different nationalities: verse 11
John 10:16 ***And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.***
Ephesians 3:6 ***That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.***
The centurion represents all Gentiles who will come to faith to the Lord Jesus. In other words, Gentiles will be at the banquet table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob while many Jews will be thrown into hell.
- D. Jesus’ power to judge all who will reject Him: If Jesus is rejected by either Jews or Gentiles; the result is outer darkness or hell.
1. The centurion’s servant was healed: Before the centurion could make it home, he had the answer to his prayer in his house. “His servant was healed in that hour.” Verse 13 ***And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou***

hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

2. The centurion's soul was healed: Jesus said, "As you have believed, so shall it be done unto you."