

## What Made Jesus Glad? (Part 2)

Last week we considered what it was that made Jesus mad. This week we're considering those moments in history worthy of Jesus' attention in the most beautiful way. While Jesus did not put His trust in mankind ([John 2:23-25](#)).

### **Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10 (Centurion on behalf of servant)**

#### - Information:

- Matthew's account is abbreviated.
- Military leader in the Roman army. A centurion was over 100 soldiers.
- He's a Gentile but spoken highly of even among the Jews. Makes you think of Cornelius of [Acts 10-11](#). A Centurion proclaimed, "Truly this was the Son of God," and praised God while witnessing the cross events. Oddly, they're viewed in a good light overall through the gospel accounts and Acts. They are fair and balanced in the specific instances recorded. They were also men who understood and appreciated authority. So it is with this Centurion who greatly valued his servant (surely Jesus appreciated that).
  - Perhaps he desired to save Jesus from the stigma tied to a Jew entering a Gentile's home ([Acts 10:28](#) - not just the trouble of finishing the walk)?

#### - Lessons:

- He articulated his faith and humility towards Jesus in a powerful manner.
  - [Luke 17:7-10](#) comes to mind.
- This seems to catch Jesus by surprise (which is a whole other study). Brethren, how predictable are we? Is that a good or bad thing? Would Jesus marvel at our faith or lack thereof?
  - [Mark 6:6](#) is the only other time Jesus marveled, and it was due to Jewish unbelief in His hometown.
  - Marveled in [Luke 7:9](#) is . . .
    - ① *to be extraordinarily impressed or disturbed by something, act.*
    - ② *transitive admire, wonder at, respect (persons) w. acc.*
    - William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 444.
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- We do not have the control and power we want. We say this, but most don't live like it. This wise Centurion didn't allow his position to blind him of these truths.

### **Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30 (Canaanite Woman)**

#### - Information:

- Coincidentally, this account follows Jesus' warning of following traditions over commandments (as we discussed last week).
- This is a familiar setting. Phoenician territory brings to mind Elijah in [1 Kings 17](#) when he raised a woman's son after dying. Tyre and Sidon is hostile territory and serve as a great representation of Israel's enemies from a historical point of view.

- Lessons:
  - She's got a few things against her from a cultural standpoint:
    - She's a "she," not a "he."
    - She's a Gentile. *"Nationally this woman is a Phoenician. Politically she is a Syrian. Ethnically, her roots go back to the Canaanites (Mt 15:22). By using this term, Matthew takes us back to the OT and conjures up the ancient rivalries and angers that have festered for so long. Culturally and linguistically she is a Greek (probably meaning Gentile)"* from "The Chronological Life Of Christ" by Mark E. Moor, page 289.
    - Her daughter is possessed. Whose sin caused this (John 9:1ff; Exodus 20:5)?
  - She's got one on her side:
    - She confesses her faith in Jesus, the Son of David, who could help her.
    - How many among the Jews could say the same? She's the only person who calls Jesus Lord in Mark's account.
    - Dogs, though they may be, were still being fed in the house. She sees what Jesus is doing. He's testing her, and she just passed. She would be fed. She would be helped because of her tenacious faith.
  - What was the common denominator between the Centurion and the Woman?
    - Status? Money? Gender? Accepted by the Jews?
    - It wasn't status or gender. They were both outsiders who fought for Jesus.
    - Their faith saved them. Not their goodness. Not their level of knowledge. Not their flowery speech or grand gestures. Their faith. They were people who lived in this world and appreciated its realities.
  - Jesus doesn't get distracted like we do.
    - We discussed Jesus' ability to prioritize. That's because He was the real deal. What's worth getting upset over? What's worth taking note of? Jesus took notice of a woman who wet his feet with her tears because she loved Him much. A woman who gave all she had, though it wasn't much. A foreign leper who returned to give thanks when others who experienced the same grace quickly forgot. Men who tore roofs off so that Jesus could heal. Jesus saw their faith, brethren. He saw it. Let's remember today that Jesus sees your faith. Let's ask the question: what does He see in me? The humility of the Centurion? Does He marvel at us? Does He see the tenacious spirit of the woman fighting for her child while putting faith in Jesus? She couldn't save her. What does He see, and how does our faith impact Him? Do we make Him glad?
  - It's about being at home with God. Matthew 8:10-13.