

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

"When Jesus Marvelled"



Today's Big Question: What makes Jesus marvel in your life?

Scripture Background-Location: 7:1 **Capernaum** was on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was an important town in northern Galilee with an economy centered on fishing and agriculture. Heavily Jewish, it was the center for Jesus' Galilean ministry (4:31-44).¹

Luke 7:1-10 (NKJV); **Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant**

7 Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. ² And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. ³ So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, ⁵ "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

⁶ Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. ⁷ Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

⁹ When Jesus heard these things, He marvelled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" ¹⁰ And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

¹ Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.

What Causes Jesus to Marvel? A few things that led up to the 1 thing!

1. **The Caring C_____ of the C_____** (v. 2-4).
 - The centurion truly cared for his servant which was remarkable for the culture of this time.
 - The caring compassion of the centurion moved him to act.

Scripture Insight: In the Gospels and the Book of Acts, Roman centurions are presented as quality men of character, and this one is a sterling example. The Jewish elders had little love for the Romans in general and Roman soldiers in particular, and yet the elders commended this officer to Jesus. He loved the Jewish people in Capernaum and even built them a synagogue. He loved his servant and did not want him to die. This centurion was not a Stoic who insulated himself from the pain of others. He had a heart of concern, even for his lowly servant boy who was dying from a paralyzing disease (Matt. 8:6).²

2. **The Severe S_____ of the Centurion's Servant** (v. 2b-3).
 - The servant was sick and ready to die.
 - Dire circumstances call for drastic actions.
3. **The Hopeful H_____ of the H_____** (v. 3a).
 - He heard about Jesus...

Principles about Communicating Jesus to a world in need of grace:

- ✓ Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.
- ✓ The Word of God is too important not to hear everywhere!
- ✓ **The 167 Principle:** There are 167 hours outside of the one hour on Sunday where people go to church. How can we more effectively connect with people in those 167 hours during the week?
- ✓ You have two basic methods of church: The "Come and See" Church vs the "Go and Tell" Church. The "Go and Tell" Church brings the church to the people!

- The Centurion heard about Jesus and wanted to see if Jesus—the Hopeful Healer could bring hope back to his hopeless situation.
4. **The Leveraged L_____ of the Centurion** (v. 3b).
 - Notice the leadership ability of the centurion: He hand selected Jewish elders to speak to Jesus!

² Quote from Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 195). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- If the church wants to have a greater impact with the Gospel, we need to learn to leverage the Body of Christ to her full potential.

Here are 7 practical leadership principles from John Maxwell

1. Walk slowly through the halls.

"One of the greatest mistakes leaders make is spending too much time in their offices and not enough time out among the people."

Take the chance to build relationships with your team. Make a point to focus less on "task" and more on the "people" of your organization.

2. See everyone as a "10."

"360-Degree Leaders get more out of their people because they think more of their people. They respect and value them, and as a result, their people want to follow them."

Encouragement for and recognition of your team reminds them that you believe in their abilities.

When you see the best in someone, they will want to rise to the expectations set of them - not out of obligation, but out of motivation and excitement.

3. Develop each team member as a person.

"Getting the job done through others makes you a leader. But developing the people while helping them get the job done at the highest level makes you an exceptional leader. When you develop others, they become better, they do the job better, and both you and the organization benefit."

As leaders, our goal is to help others improve as individuals. Developing means the qualities a person gains will benefit them in multiple areas of life, not just their jobs. Their development will ultimately prepare them for future leadership positions.

4. Place people in their strength zones.

"Successful people find their own strength zones. Successful leaders find the strength zones of the people they lead."

Finding the right person for the right job can be tough. But taking the time to get the right people in the right places results in greater success.

5. Model the behavior your desire.

"Leaders need to be what they want to see."

What kind of team members do you want? Leaders show the way for their team. If you desire a culture of excellence, model excellence. If you don't like what your team members do, first take a look at yourself and then take action.

6. Transfer the vision.

"When preparing to cast vision, ask: What do I want them to know, and what do I want them to do?" While you may not be transferring your own vision, you are certainly the interpreter. Prepare for the vision casting conversation by ensuring you are clear about the vision. In doing so, you'll create clarity for the team.

7. Reward for results.

"Whatever actions leaders reward will be repeated."

Giving praise publicly and privately for things you'd like to see again will guarantee that team members continue to strive for success. And remember, rewards may be different for each team member. Find out what motivates each individual.³

5. The Passionate P_____ of the Jewish elders (v. 4-5).

- The Jewish elders give us a great way to approach Jesus:
 1. They came to Jesus.
 2. They asked with a passionate plea-They earnestly begged Jesus.
 3. They were specific with their request: Come and heal the centurion's servant.
 4. They offered heartfelt reasons for their request: The law of the harvest—The centurion has been faithful and generous, so please be merciful to him and his servant.

6. The Gracious G_____ of the Centurion (v. 4b-5).

- Was the centurion really deserving of God's grace? From God's perspective, **no one is truly deserving**. So, what were the elders basically saying: If anyone could be counted a candidate for a miracle, then the centurion should be at the top of the line.
- Notice the character description of the centurion: He loves our nation and he has built us a place of worship (synagogue) from his own wealth.

7. The Honest H_____ (v. 6-7a).

- The centurion was truly humble which meant that it was authentic and not false.

³ Article from John Maxwell, <http://www.johnmaxwell.com/blog/best-practices-of-leading-down>.

- What is false humility?

Distinguishing True Humility from Its Two Extremes: False Humility and Pride

False Humility [thinking poorly of oneself, low self-esteem, feeling inferior]	True Humility [lowly of heart – not arrogant or boastful, ready to serve, teachable]	Pride [vainglory, being conceited, feeling superior, arrogant]
Self-defeating mind-set and poor self-image, evaluating oneself too negatively – <i>I'm a failure, I'm worthless, I can't do anything right, no one likes me.</i>	Self-forgetfulness, selflessness, not self-centered, not fearful about what others think of you, or preoccupied with self concerns	Self-conceited – thinking too highly of oneself – an exaggerated opinion or exalted view of oneself
Tendency to be self-despising or to belittle oneself, to be self-deprecating around others, excessively modest, due to feeling inferior, useless, or unworthy	Balanced view of self and good understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses, and one's role and position in the wider community and society	Vanity and vainglory – excessive display, and boasting in one's appearance, qualities, abilities, and achievements
Preoccupied with anxious concern for oneself, can't focus on others	Self-giving and self-sacrificing for the sake of others in order to help, encourage, serve, and care for others	Self-centered, self-seeking, and selfish, concerned chiefly or only with yourself and your advantage, to the exclusion of others
People pleaser – does whatever others want regardless of what is the prudent or right thing to do	Lowly of heart – treats everyone with respect, care, and concern, regardless of their status, position, or worthiness, not playing favorites	Selfish ambition and the drive to get ahead of others at their expense
Timid or insecure – lacking in self- assurance, afraid to take initiative, afraid to speak up or be assertive when needed	Other-focused, mindful of others' interests and concerns, and ready to put aside personal preferences to serve others	Domineering and over-bearing, too demanding, too opinionated, too outspoken, too assertive
Overly dependent on what others think – lacks prudence to think and judge rightly	Servant-hearted, ready to serve others wholly for their good without seeking personal gain	Treats others as inferiors or unworthy of your care and concern
Fearful of correction and feedback because of low self-worth or poor self-image	Teachable, receptive to receiving correction, training, and feedback	Unteachable, refuses correction, resists feedback

4

8. The Fearless F_____ (v. 7b-8). This was the one thing that caused Jesus to be amazed!

- Just say the word...
- The power of authority

Scripture Insight: 7:8 The centurion understands how authority works: just as soldiers obey the centurion because he is backed by the authority of the empire, every earthly harm, including disease, must submit to Jesus because he is backed by God's authority (cf. [4:32,36](#); [5:24](#)).⁵

9. The Rapid R_____ (v. 9).

- Jesus marveled.

Scripture Insight: he was amazed. The amazement of Jesus is only mentioned twice, here because of belief and at Nazareth because of unbelief ([Mk 6:6](#); see note on [Mk 6:5](#)).⁶

⁴ Chart from Don Schwager, <http://www.swordofthespirit.net/bulwark/truehumilitychart.htm>.

⁵ Quote from NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible.

⁶ Quote from NIV Study Bible.

- Jesus turned around...
- Jesus praised the faith of the centurion in front of the whole crowd.

Matthew 25:21 (NLT): "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

- Where one should expect to find faith, faith was not found. Faith was found in the unexpected...he wasn't a Jew, he wasn't a religious leader...he was a Roman who was in the Roman army...he was a centurion.

Scripture Insight: The centurion's faith certainly was remarkable. After all, he was a Gentile whose background was pagan. He was a Roman soldier, trained to be self-sufficient, and we have no evidence that he had ever heard Jesus preach. Perhaps he heard about Jesus' healing power from the nobleman whose son Jesus had healed, also at a distance (John 4:46-54). His soldiers may also have brought him reports of the miracles Jesus had performed, for the Romans kept close touch with the events in Jewish life.⁷

10. **The Marvelous M_____** (v. 10)

- The sent ones went home to find a welcome home party.

Conclusion/Summary: What was the cause of this miraculous happening? What was the one thing that moved God to move on behalf of the centurion's servant? *The Fearless Faith of the Centurion.*

Sermon in a Sentence: A fearless faith in the Hopeful Healer will resurrect hope even in the most hopeless situation.

Action Steps:

- **For the person in need of a miracle-**Ask God to give you a fearless faith that can give life back to your dead situation.
- **For the seeker-**Your greatest need is to have new life. Ask Jesus to come into your life, save you, and forgive you of all your sins. Now, you can truly experience the greatest miracle...the miracle of a new life in Christ!

Make a decision this week? Please let us know on your Connection Card.

Preview for next Sunday: "When Drama Turns into Destiny" from Luke 7:11-17.

⁷ Quote from Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 195). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.