

“Recognizing Jesus’s Authority”

Matthew 8:5-13

Authority... *Matthew 21:23*

When He entered the temple area, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?”

By what authority:

- Do you answer for your faith?
- What does your faith come from?
- Why do you say you believe? How can you say that?
- How do you know Jesus is true? That the Word of God is true?
- By what authority do you tell a person that they’re lost and in need of a Savior? Lost and on their way to hell?
- How do you know when the world started?
- Where we came from?
- Why we are here?
- Where is God? I don’t see Him.
- How do I know all this is true?

As we continue our study here in Matthew 8, we see here Jesus confronting the world, and continues to show His authority. And shows people where they’re at spiritually.

Throughout these episodes that we see in Matthew (we have a lot coming up). We see a number of things happening as Jesus confronts the world:

- Some are wonderful:
- Others are frightening:
- Some are just startling:
- Others are alarming:

So, there are these confrontations...

- But as we look at them, examine them, understand them,
- We understand better Jesus:
 - Who He is?
 - What is His position?
 - What about His authority?
- And by doing so, we will decide: WHERE OUR ALLEGIANCE WILL BE!
- Will you follow Jesus? Will you make your life count? Or will you...

Remember 7:29? We’ve heard about it (sermon on mount) – now we will see it, in the leper healed (last week); and today in a non-Jew, a Roman, Who comes to Jesus with a need, his servant is sick.

As we see this centurion’s confrontation with Jesus; we see an example of recognizing Jesus as all authority.

You need to see and recognize Jesus’ authority in your life....

Let’s look at this Centurion. I want to point out 3 things we can learn from this passage:

- I. The Centurion’s identity (who is he?)
 - A Roman Centurion: (an officer in the Roman occupation army)
 - Unlike senior officers, he went over the walls with the troops.
 - Centurions exercised discipline, trained recruits, and carried out orders from supervisors.
 - He was a seasoned capable fighting man – a man’s man!
 1. Normally despised, he was popular with the Capernaum Jews.
 2. He was in leadership. Over men, over 100 soldiers
 3. He had money. “and to my servant” position that pays?
 4. He had compassion for a dying slave boy.
 5. He had faith.
 6. He knew leadership when he saw it. – if anyone ought to recognize Jesus’s authority as Messiah it should be a Jew, but here is this Roman...!
- II. The Centurion’s humility
 - 1. The question of the parallel passage, Luke’s account: 7:1-10
 - 2. He is beseeching, asking, intreating, pleading for help:
calls him Lord 2x, this is more than courtesy; he affirms the Lordship of Christ, believing Jesus was God!
 - 3. Does not ask for healing but says how sick his servant was (the ask is implied).
 - 4. He does not expect Jesus to come to his house (v.8).
 - 5. He had a grasp of his own position (v.9).
- III. The Centurion’s faith – v.8b “speak the word only”
 - A. This is great faith!
 - B. Jesus focuses on his faith (v.10)
but he would not be alone in this faith (v.11).
 - C. These Jews and Gentiles will sit down (v.11...)
[In future] at the banquet table with patriarchs:
Gentiles will be present!
Some Jews will be missing!

Conclusion:

- Jesus’s authority, do you see it?
- It says this:
- You can be at the banquet.
- Or you can have weeping and gnashing of teeth – hell – outer darkness, place of torment, fire, pain for all eternity.
- What will you choose?
- Don’t play with fire, the fire of hell.
- Jesus, the greatest firefighter of all time: rescuing souls from fire, (hell) for thousands of years!