

The Miracles of Jesus - Part 7

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C. Elijah Bronner: How do you make the God who does wonders wonder?

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And now for 7822, "The Miracles of Jesus - Part 7."

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of The Word because brother, you need the word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com or Facebook Live. Welcome to today's service, always a wonderful joy and delight to have you to join us.

Well, I would like to share just a little humor. A man was praying and he said, "Lord, how long is a million years to you?" "Only a second," God replied. And then he said, "Then, Lord, how much is a million dollars to you?" "Only a penny," God replied. Then the man said, "Well, Lord, may I have a penny?" The Lord says, "Sure. Just a second."

Some of you are just not getting it, but --. We are studying today over the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 8. The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 8. And we've been talking about The Miracles of Jesus. The Miracles of Jesus. This is Part 7, The Miracles of Jesus. And so, we've just been looking at different accounts in the life and ministry of Jesus, different miracles that He performed and we've been gleaning from them and just learning some wonderful principles that we can apply to our lives. And also, we are believing for the power of God to display itself and manifest itself powerfully in our lives today.

Jesus is still the same yesterday, today and forever more. So, He wants His people to believe for His power to be displayed and manifested in the world today. And so, we are grateful for the power of God that's at work in our lives. The power of God is always at work in our lives.

And so, we've been looking at different accounts in the various Gospels, different miracles that Jesus did and I think we are only -- even though this is Part 7, we've only looked at and I think this is maybe the fourth miracle.

But anyway, Matthew Chapter 8. Let's look at Verse 5 through 13. Matthew Chapter 8 Verses 5 through 13. "And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a centurion, beseeching Him, and saying, 'Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.' And Jesus saith unto him, 'I will come and heal him.' The centurion answered and said, 'Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.' When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to them that followed, 'Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 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."

So, we are talking about The Miracles of Jesus. This is Part 7. And this particular account, the centurion who is a military leader, he's a Roman military leader and as you know, the Romans were oppressing the Jews. So, it was the Roman military that was enforcing the military law and command over the Jews there. And so, they were almost somewhat of a natural enemy and yet the centurion comes to Jesus.

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And so, if you notice the first thing in Verse 5, "And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a centurion, beseeching Him." Now, beseeching means asking for help. It means seeking aid. It's almost begging. And so, this shows the great humility in which this military leader displayed. He came in great humility because not only was he a man in leadership, he commanded at least 100 soldiers under him. So, he was a man in leadership.

And then, on top of that, he was the one that was enforcing military command over the Jewish people. He was part of the Romans that enforced that command over the Jewish people. And so, he comes and he humbles himself. And so, there is a great humility here just from the word “beseeching” because that is asking for help, seeking aid. He’s begging. And so, he came in great humility. Everyone say, “Humility.”

You’ll find in 1st Peter Chapter 5 Verses 5 and 6, it talks about how God resist the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. His grace flows to those who are humble. His grace flows through humility.

Proverbs 15:33 says that, before honor is humility. Before honor is humility. And so, the centurion, he displayed humility. He came in humility and you will see even later down in the account, he even shows further humility.

So, humility was at the heart and the essence of the centurion of his heart. He came in a heart of humility. And as a result, he received the grace of God. He received the grace of God. So, humility is powerful when we recognize who we are, who God is and giving Him glory for the difference. That’s where humility is. Humility is recognizing who God is, who we are, and giving Him glory for the difference, and He has just such a great heart of humility.

And then, look in Verse 6. Notice, He says and saying, “Lord, my servant, lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.” The centurion was not there for himself. He was there for his servant at home. He was there for somebody else. This also says a lot about him. This man was generous with people. In fact, there are two Gospels that share the same account. Matthew, where we are, but also the Gospel of Luke shares this account. And in Luke’s Gospel, Luke actually says that this man built a synagogue for the Jews.

So, this man was a generous man. He was generous with people. So, he had a very generous spirit, he was generous with people, he treated people well. He treated people well. So, I want you to see these characteristics that prelude to this miracle. He came in a heart of humility and he treated people well. He was generous

with people. He was interceding for somebody else. He was looking out for somebody else.

Now, notice, he took his time and he was an important man. He was a commander. He was a general. He took his time, he took his energy, he took his effort, and he show concern and compassion for somebody else. He was literally serving his servant. He was serving his servant. I love the reverse there. He had a servant who normally served him, but now he is serving the servant. He is serving the servant.

So, this guy just treated people well and he was generous with people. Romans Chapter 15 Verse 12 says, "Do something for someone else's welfare." Do something for someone else's welfare. Philippians Chapter 2 Verse 4 also says, "Be concerned about the interest of others. Be concerned about the welfare or the interest of others." And so, that's the heart that the centurion had. He was generous with people. He treated people well. He was taking his time, his energy, his effort for someone else.

Mother Theresa said, she said, "How you treated other people is the most enduring impact you can have on earth. You want to leave a legacy on earth? The greatest legacy you can leave on earth is how you treated other people." It's the greatest legacy that you can leave on earth, how you treated other people. You want to focus on people, you want to show others that you care. You want to be generous.

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You want to give with no strings attached. You want people to be better. And so, you give for no other reason that you want to be a blessing, you want to help others.

And here's the interesting thing that God builds into this mechanism. When we are showing concern for others, when we are interested in others and the welfare of others, the mechanism that God automatically builds into this is the fact that it also impacts our lives. You can't treat others well. You can't do something for someone else without it impacting your own life.

And so, God builds that in. It's an interesting little mechanism there. And so, when you're actually looking out for somebody else, it actually impacts your life as well. So, God builds something

into that so that when we're giving, we're sowing and we're also reaping from our very own action, and it's amazing how that works.

So, say this with me. Say, "Focus on people. Show others that you care. Be generous. Give with no strings attached." Well, that's the heart of a believer. That's the heart of God's people. That's the way we're to live our lives.

I read a statistic that said we focus about 90% of the time on ourselves, so we have very little interest on others. We're only looking out for numero uno. We're only looking out for ourselves. We're in a very self-centered society. Everything is self-centered, selfish, we're looking out for us, and that's not the way of Christ. And so, we are to treat people well. We have to treat people well. Treat people well.

So, this is a wonderful characteristic that the centurion had. He had great humility. I want you to see his heart. I want you to see his heart. He had great humility, he cared for other people. That's a leader. A leader cares for his people. A leader cares for his people. You want to be a great leader? You learn to care for the people who are under you. You care for the people that you're leading. That makes you a great leader.

There is nothing a person who's following you won't do for you when they find out that you care about them, when you care for them. So, this was a mark of a great leader. This man cared for people. He took time out to invest in the life of his servant and to go on someone else's behalf, so I just love that.

Now, look at Verse 7. We're just kind of walking through the verses. Look at Verse 7. Matthew Chapter 8 Verse 7. We're walking through just these verses looking at each individual encounter. And notice of Verse 7, he says, "And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him." So, he made his appeal to Christ. He said, "My servant is at home sick." Jesus' first reply was, he said, "I'll come and heal him."

Isn't that awesome? Man, that shows the heart of God. That shows the heart of God. It shows how good God is without any reservation, without any explanation. Jesus replied, "I will come and heal him." I will come and heal him. That's the heart of God.

God is full of compassion. He is full of mercy. He is full of grace. This shows God's heart toward us. God is willing to help us. God is willing to assist us. He actually delights in doing it. It's a pleasure to Him. He wants to. So, notice there was no reluctance at all. Jesus said, "I will come and heal him." I will come. So, that's God's willingness to show mercy, compassion to help, to heal.

One translation. I'm thinking of the miracle where Jesus healed the leper and the leper said, "Jesus, if you will, you can make me whole." And Jesus said, "I will." The same thing he said here. "I will." And so, He's showing us God's Will. It's God's Will to do us good. It's God's Will to have mercy on us. It's God's Will to show us compassion. It's God's Will to be good to us. This actually translate it. I take delight in it, I take pleasure in it, I want to do it. He said, "I will come." It was a delight to Jesus to do it. He delights in doing us good. Isn't that good news? He delights in doing us good.

Now, Jesus present day is our high priest. He's our high priest. Now, we are still able to approach Him the same way the centurion approached Him because He's our high priest today. Now, notice what the Bible says about Him today. Hebrews Chapter 4 Verse 16 says, "Come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Well, that's the same Jesus that we're looking at right here in Matthew Chapter 8. He was willing to do it. He showed grace, he showed mercy, he showed compassion.

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And today, we're able to go to the throne of grace. Aren't you glad there's a throne of grace and not a throne of judgment? There's a throne of grace. We go to the throne of grace because Jesus walked the earth, He's able to empathize with us because He lived among us. He lived as a man. So, He knows what pain feels like. He saw people die, He saw people sick, He saw people impoverished, He saw people whose lives were wrecked and He saw where the devil had ravished people. Jesus saw it. He lived it. He experienced it.

And so, that's why He's empathetic to us when we come to Him because He understands. He was here. He lived -- it's human

experience. And so, that's why we can (00:15:45) it to the throne of grace that we might obtain mercy and find grace to have in time of need.

Man, that's where you need grace for. You need it. Where you need grace is when you need it. And we are able to go to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and find grace in the time of need. Praise God.

Well, that's what that centurion received. He received the grace of God. The grace of God came in his life and he came to Him in a time of need and the grace of God was released in his life. And so, you need to just fall down on your knees and say, "Oh Lord, I just come to the throne of grace. Lord, I ask you to have mercy on me, and Father, give me grace right now in this time."

No matter what it is, no matter what you're dealing with, just -- "I pray for grace, Lord, right now. I just pray for grace." He's willing to do it, the same way Jesus said, "I will come and heal him", is the same thing He says to us. "I'm happy to do it for you. I take pleasure in doing it for you. I delight in doing it for you." Praise God. God is awesome. He's the same today as He was then. He's the same merciful high priest today.

And now, drop down and look at the next verse. We'll look at Verse 8, "The centurion answered and said, 'Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof.'" Now, notice that. Verse 8, he says, "I'm not worthy." I love this because it lets us know we don't have to be perfect for God to work in our lives. We don't have to be perfect. I love that. This man said, "Lord, I'm not worthy. Honestly, I'm not worthy for you to come onto my roof."

We don't have to be perfect for God to work in our lives. He can work in our lives in spite of us. In spite of our hang-ups, in spite of our habits, in spite of our addictions, and in spite of our mistakes, in spite of our past, God is able to work in our lives. So, we don't have to be perfect for God to work in our lives. So, I love this. The centurion was coming not based on his own merit, he was coming based on the merit of Christ Jesus.

He was not coming on his own righteousness, he was coming because He knew this God was righteous and this God was good, and this God was merciful, and this God was compassionate. So,

he was coming on the righteousness of God, not on his own righteousness. So, never feel like you can't approach God. Never feel like you're not worthy enough. Because if you put your focus on Him, He is worthy. It is He that is worthy who makes us worthy. He makes us worthy. It's His righteousness.

We have received the gift of righteousness. Our righteousness comes. By placing our faith in Him, we receive the gift of righteousness. We are made righteous as He is righteous. We are holy as He is holy. And so, it's a gift. And so, we come to Him based on His merit. Base on His merit. And that's what He did. (00:18:44) some people in scripture who has some hang-ups, but God still worked in their lives.

Listen to this. Abraham was owed. Jacob was insecure and a cheater, and a deceiver. Leah was unattractive. Joseph was abused. Moses stuttered. Gideon was poor. Samson was co-dependent and a womanizer. Rahab was immoral. David had an affair and family problems. Elijah was suicidal. Jeremiah was depressed. Jonah was disobedient and reluctant. Naomi was a widow. Peter was impulsive. He denied Christ and he was hot-tempered. Martha worried a lot. The Samaritan woman has several failed marriages. Zacchaeus was unpopular and a cheater. Thomas had doubts. Paul had poor health. Timothy was timid.

Now, if God can use all of them with all those hang-ups, they give us some hope that God can use us. God can use us. So, God was able to work in our lives in spite of us. So, we are not limited based on our hang-ups.

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God is able to work in spite of us. So, I just love the way he came to Jesus there and he says, "I'm not worthy." But yet, that showed his humility once again. That showed the humility of his heart once again.

And so, now, at this point, he says, "I'm not worthy for you to come to my house, but, Lord, just speak the word only and my servant will be healed." So, at this point, he recognized who God was. He knew who He was. He knew who Jesus was and it lets us know that he will spend some time meditating on who He is. It enlarges our faith and it dispels our fears.

When you know who He is, you meditate on Him. And that's what the centurion did. He spent great time placing his faith in Him and who He was. He knew who He was. He knew that this was God. He knew that this was the Lord. He actually called Him the Lord. He knew who He was and it lets us know that if we can just get a revelation of who God is in our lives and meditate on who He is, it enlarges our faith, increases our faith and it dispels our fear.

Ave, if you have the little videotape. I played this last year, but it's such a great reminder of who God is.

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Praise God. Amen. Amen.

So, meditate on who God is in your life. The centurion, he understood who He was and he meditated on that and that enlarged his faith and his capacity. And so, there's something powerful that we gain from just realizing who God is. It shrinks your fears and it enlarges your faith.

And the final two things, then I'm finished. He told Jesus, he says, "Speak the word only." Speak the word only. That's a message to us. Speak the word only. What have you been saying? What have you been confessing? Are you talking about your problems or are you talking to your problems?

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Speak the word only. Speak in line with God's word. Speak in line with God's word. Check your words and see if your words line up with God's word. What are you saying? What are you saying? Speak the word only. Speak the word only. If it's not the word, don't speak it. Speak the word only. Speak the word only. So, I love that. And he had a grasp of that. That gives great message and meaning to us today. Speak the word only.

Then, the final thing about the centurion is that his faith inspired, and not necessarily inspired Jesus, but it excited Jesus because Jesus only marveled two times in scripture. He marveled because of this man's great faith and he marveled because of unbelief. He marveled because of great faith and he marveled because of

unbelief. Marvel means to wonder, to me amazed. He was amazed. He wondered.

How do you make that God who does wonders wonder? He made Him wonder. So, is God wondering at you because of your great faith or is He wondering at you because of your great unbelief? He wondered at his great faith and this man's faith not only amazed Jesus, but Jesus took it and He shared it with everybody who was there because Jesus wanted to use it to inspire their faith as well.

And He was basically saying in essence, you all need to believe at another level. You need to live at another level. And Jesus went on just really commending this man in front of this crowd. So, this man here is not even an Israelite, he's not even a child. He has no inheritance, but yet, he's greater than anything else. And so, Jesus took this as a teaching moment and allowed it to inspire the faith of others. And so, that lets me know that you need to be around people that inspire you. You need to be around people that can become a reference point for your life.

I mean, I love to see people who are really up in age, but yet, they are active and they are vibrant, and they're alive, and they're still doing it. I use them as a reference point.

When I see people that are 80 and 90, 100 years old and they're doing it, I make (00:27:23), I said, "That's a reference point." That's a reference point. So, you have to learn to create reference points in any area of life. So, if you see somebody who's happy all the time, make them a reference point for your life. That's a reference point. If you see someone who's just so full of love and always loving, that's a reference point for your love life.

And so, you should have different reference points for different areas of your life because we use them to inspire us. We use reference points to inspire our lives. You can't really change your life until you see an example that is higher and better than yourself. And so, that's why Jesus used this man's faith to inspire everybody else. He said, "Let this be a reference point to you. This is how you believe God. This is how you believe for something extraordinary. This is how you believe for something great. This is how you believe for something that's never been done before."

What he told Jesus to do had never been done before. And so, this man really pushed the envelope and Jesus got so excited about that and He said, "Make this man a reference point for your faith, for your life." Believe at another level.

Stand to your feet because I'm out of time. Praise God. Give the Lord a hand for His word. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Praise God.

Let's pray. Father, we just love you and we praise you. Thank you so much, Lord, for being the God of miracles in our lives. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to have inspiring faith, Lord, and to be inspired in our faith and in our lives. We just love you and praise you so much. Thank you for showing us the humility and the grace and your willingness to help us in all of life. We love you and we praise you. And in Jesus' name we pray, let every other heart say, "Amen." Amen.

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