

# *G R O W T H N O T E S*

*Scripture Text: Matthew 8:5-13*

**SERMON SERIES: Words That Change Reality**

**Message:**

**“W O W!”**

## ***TODAY'S SCRIPTURE TEXT***

***Matthew 8:5-13 (NLT):*** <sup>5</sup> When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer<sup>[b]</sup> came and pleaded with him, <sup>6</sup>“Lord, my young servant<sup>[c]</sup> lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain.”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said, “I will come and heal him.”

<sup>8</sup> But the officer said, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my slaves, ‘Do this,’ they do it.”

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, “I tell you the truth, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel! <sup>11</sup> And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. <sup>12</sup> But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, “Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened.” And the young servant was healed that same hour.

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**Message:** <sup>5-6</sup> As Jesus entered the village of Capernaum, a Roman captain came up in a panic and said, “Master, my servant is sick. He can’t walk. He’s in terrible pain.”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said, “I’ll come and heal him.”

<sup>8-9</sup> “Oh, no,” said the captain. “I don’t want to put you to all that trouble. Just give the order and my servant will be fine. I’m a man who takes orders and gives orders. I tell one soldier, ‘Go,’ and he goes; to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

<sup>10-12</sup> Taken aback, Jesus said, “I’ve yet to come across this kind of simple trust in Israel, the very people who are supposed to know all about God and how he works. This man is the vanguard of many outsiders who will soon be coming from all directions—streaming in from the east, pouring in from the west, sitting down at God’s kingdom banquet

alongside Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then those who grew up ‘in the faith’ but had no faith will find themselves out in the cold, outsiders to grace and wondering what happened.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus turned to the captain and said, “Go. What you believed could happen has happened.” At that moment his servant became well.

### ***BACKGROUND OF TODAY’S MESSAGE***

- Imagine for a moment—if you’re a Christian—not a Christian—don’t wanna be a Christian—used to be a Christian—OR—been a Christian all your life—
- Imagine—for a moment—what your life would be like—if you had absolute confidence in God!?
- Absolute confidence—number one—that God is real!
- Absolute confidence—number two—that God is personal—AND—knows your name!?
- Absolute confidence—number three—that God is a God who will walk beside you every day—every step of the way—AND—has promised never to leave you—never to forsake you—to see you through—over and around everything—AND—anything that comes your way!

- Imagine what your life would be like—IF—you had that caliber of faith—that when things break down—AND—when things fall apart—AND—when things turn south—you could quickly conclude to yourself—there’s nothing I can do about that—I’m just gonna trust God to see me through!
- I’m talking about the quality of faith that empowers you amid titanic temptations to pray hurriedly—“God, I don’t know how I’m gonna say no to this—BECAUSE—everything in me wants to say yes!
- BUT—I have absolute faith that You’re bigger than what I face—AND—I’m just gonna trust You!
- BECAUSE—when you meet a person who has—“Out-of-the-box—Big—Crazy—Beyond-the-boundaries—faith—it makes you wanna sit up and take notice!
- AND—can you imagine if that were your experience?
- I start there today—BECAUSE—I want you to know that’s exactly where God wants to take you!
- That God wants to build into each of us an extraordinary—over the top—out-of-the-box—are you kidding me—WOW—kind of faith!

- God wants you to have a faith that’s so alive—so dynamic—so vibrant—so that when others look at how you live by faith—how you live in faith—all they can say about you is—WOW!
- Imagine if you woke up every day with that kind of confidence—everything and everybody in your life would be impacted!
- AND—that’s what’s exactly taught in the text we’ve tagged to lift up today!
- This man in our text had such dynamic faith—that it made Jesus Christ go—WOW!

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***WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF FAITH THAT WOULD CAUSE JESUS TO  
SAY:  
W O W!?***

***1. “A FAITH THAT IS UNASHAMED!”***

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***2. “A FAITH THAT IS UNSELFISH!”***

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**3. “A FAITH THAT IS USEFUL!”**

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**4. “A FAITH THAT IS UNASSUMING!”**

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**5. “A FAITH THAT IS UNDERSTANDING!”**

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**6. “A FAITH THAT IS UNRELENTING!”**

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**CONCLUSION**

- Jesus said to the centurion—“I’ll come to your house!”
- **BUT**—*the centurion responded*—“Jesus—you don’t have to come to my house—*just speak the Word!*”
- **BECAUSE**—*doubt says*—“I’ll believe it when I see it!”

- ***BUT—faith says—“I’ll believe it whether I see it or not!”***
- ***The centurion didn’t require Jesus’ presence—just His Word!”***
- BECAUSE—faith is the substance of what you hope for—AND—the evidence of what you do not see!
- Faith is believing a thing is so—even though it isn’t so—that it might be so!
- Faith is functioning like it’s already happened—before it happens—until it happens!