

THINGS YOU HAVE SEEN AND HEARD

- sometimes it's easy to become discouraged when things don't work out the way we had anticipated
- the reality is – things happen. Life is not always easy and good
- what do we do, where do we turn when those things happen?
- here we have 4 pictures of Jesus ministering to people in their hurt, pain, suffering, questioning, and even shame

1. THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

(1-5) THE CENTURION SENDS FOR JESUS

- when He concluded all His sayings = the teaching of the previous chapter
- He entered the city of Capernaum
 - This was the home base of Jesus' ministry in the Galilee region ([Matthew 4:13](#))
 - We had the privilege of entering that city a little over a week ago
 - Show pictures and video
- a certain centurion
 - A centurion was a commander over a company of soldiers which could be from 100 to 1000 soldiers
 - Centurions are mentioned four times in the New Testament, each time in a positive light...
 - Here in our text
 - The centurion at the Crucifixion in [Matthew 27:54](#)
 - Who can forget that it was a centurion who was the one calling for Peter in [Acts 10](#)
 - It was a centurion who stood by Paul in [Acts 27](#)

- he had heard about Jesus, and sent the elders of the Jews to plead with Him about his servant who was sick and ready to die

- Part of our prayers should be bringing to Jesus those that are sick and need healing

- this centurion loved the Jews and had even built the temple for them there in Capernaum

- Show pictures of the ruins

(6-8) A MAN OF FAITH

- Jesus did not hesitate to go with the elders to the Centurion's house

- the Centurion understood that it was unclean for a Jew to enter the house of a gentile, so he told Jesus not to come to his house, but to just speak the word

- He understood that Jesus had the authority to heal whether physically present or not

- one who was accustomed to having his commands obeyed without question, the centurion would have understood the power of the spoken word

(9-10) THE SERVANT HEALED

- Jesus marveled at the faith of this Gentile soldier

- there are only 2 people in the entire New Testament that are commended for having great faith – this Gentile soldier, and a Syrophenician woman

- on the other hand, the people that should have had great faith, the Jewish people, also caused Jesus to marvel – at their unbelief

(Mark 6:6)

- upon returning to the Centurion's house, those that were sent found the servant healed

2. THE DEAD RAISED

(11-13) JESUS GOES TO THE CITY OF NAIN

- the city of Nain, about 30 miles away
- Jesus was very popular at this time, and had many disciples
- large crowds followed Him wherever He went
- as He entered the gate of the city, He was met by a funeral procession with a large crowd
 - A widow was going to bury her only son
- Jesus was moved with compassion
 - How do we react to someone else's pain and suffering

(14-17) JESUS RAISES THE WIDOW'S SON

- touching the coffin was not allowed for the religious Jews
- Jesus spoke to the dead man = "I say to you, arise."
- immediately the dead man was resuscitated
- This is one of three recorded resurrections. The others are the daughter of Jairus ([Mark 5:22](#)) and Lazarus ([John 11:1](#)). Jesus may have raised others as well ([Luke 7:22](#)). He commissioned the Twelve to raise the dead ([Matthew 10:8](#)). (*Halley*)
- Nobody knew that Jesus would arrive and break up the funeral!
Never despair, because your Lord may surprise you at the last minute and do the impossible for you. (*Warren Wiersbe*)
- the effect of the miracle = the people glorified God

3. ARE YOU REALLY THE ONE?

(18-19) JOHN THE BAPTIST QUESTIONS

- John is now in prison, hearing about all the things that Jesus was doing, was questioning whether Jesus was the one or not
 - Sometimes when we hear of all that Jesus is doing for others, we begin to think about what isn't happening in our own lives

- remember John's earlier testimony of Jesus in [Matthew 3:11](#), [John 1:15](#), and [John 1:29](#)
- perhaps John had the same expectation of the Messiah that the Jews had, that Jesus would establish the kingdom, and what Jesus was doing didn't add up to John
 - He began to question and doubt
 - The same thing happens to us when things don't work out the way we think they should

(20-23) JESUS ANSWERS

- Jesus didn't give a direct answer, but just began to minister to the people
- He told them to tell John the things they had heard and seen in fulfillment of [Isaiah 61:1](#)
- by the way, Jesus tells us the same thing = go tell the things you have heard and seen
- blessed is the one who is not offended

(24-28) JESUS HONORS JOHN

- John was more than a prophet
- Jesus quoted [Malachi 3:1](#)

(29-30) THE PEOPLE REACT

- two groups – two reactions
 - One happy in the preaching of John which led them to repentance – they understood what Jesus was saying
 - The other group, hardened by sin, refusing to repent – they rejected what Jesus was saying because their hearts were hard
- things haven't changed much in 2000 years!

(31-35) JESUS CHALLENGES THE NAY SAYERS

- The wisdom of the Lord's way is not seen intellectually nor argued logically, but it is seen in the transformation of people practically. Look at the children of the Lord, born-again believers, and you see people who were once strung out on drugs, hooked on pornography, or held captive by materialism; people with messed-up marriages, hurting families, and broken lives who are now in the process of being perfected. God's wisdom is justified in changed lives. Let the Pharisees argue all they want. The irrefutable fact is that lives are changed. (*Jon Courson*)

4. FORGIVEN AT LAST

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