

How to Marvel the Marvelous One

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 7:1-10



Big Idea

Jesus marvels at those who marvel at Him.

When we read the gospels, we grow used to the idea of people marveling at Jesus. He, after all, is the Marvelous One. But rarely is Jesus Himself ever said to marvel. Indeed, this is the only time He is said to do so (at least in a positive sense).

(1) A Moment of Crisis (vv. 1-5)

This man who causes the Son of God to marvel, isn't even a Jew. He's a "Centurion", a Roman soldier—probably of Roman ethnicity, certainly a Gentile (v. 9). And, therefore, he's quite a surprising individual to be honored as the only man in the New Testament to cause Jesus to marvel. We would expect such an honor to go to a Jew, a scribe, a Pharisee, one of Jesus' disciples. But no. It goes to a Gentile.

(2) A Marvelous Faith (vv. 6-10)

But what causes the Marvelous One to marvel?! The answer is found there at the end of v. 9: "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such *faith*." This marvelous faith, it seems from this text, has two key characteristics: (1) It is **Self-Humbling**; and (2) It is **Christ-Exalting**.

Jesus doesn't marvel at us for what we accomplish. He marvels at us when we finally give up on what we can accomplish and embrace what He is able to accomplish; when we stop trying to impress Him and we start being impressed by Him. In other words: Jesus marvels at those who marvel at Him.

Always, in Christ's healings, we find portraits of what He will do for us ultimately on the last day—what He will accomplish for us in His life, death, resurrection, and ongoing intercession. The healing that will come for you and I, in the end, will not be momentary, but eternal. So I don't know whether God will heal you now, or show up in your circumstances, your crises, now in precisely the way that you ask. Certainly He is able. Certainly we will ask and plead. Certainly He will bring aid in one way or another. But I do know that, whether He chooses to fix things for us immediately now or not, it will all be fixed for us on the last day, with but a word from His mouth: "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command And the dead in Christ will rise" (1 Thess 4:16).

So when your moments of crisis come, however big or mundane, cling to Him by faith, humbling yourself and exalting Him, convinced that He will get you through. And, in this, you too will cause the Marvelous One to marvel.

Reflection Questions



- The Centurion called on Jesus in his time of crisis because he heard others speaking about Him. Have those in your neighborhood heard? How can you take part in spreading the news?
- When is the last time you felt unworthy to be in God's presence? Do you think such a feeling is a good or bad thing? Explain.
- Before hearing this sermon, how do you think you would have answered the question: What would cause God to marvel at you? How has your answer changed?
- What crises of faith have you been facing lately (however big or mundane)? How are you tempted to turn inward? What would a self-humbling, Christ-exalting faith look like in this for you?