

Luke 7: How to Amaze Jesus

- ↳ **Luke 7:1-10** - It's one thing to express belief and another thing to have real faith. Faith is not a noun; it's a verb; it's action. Jesus has just finished a sermon that has illustrated that.
 - ↳ A person of faith is a person who knows they are needy and desperate and so humbles themselves and cries out to be saved; a person who loves his enemies, does good, prays, rejoices when persecuted; a person who acts on Jesus words; being near isn't near enough, calling Him Lord isn't good enough. Faith is action taken.
 - ↳ Jesus goes straight from this sermon to a living illustration of a person who is the personification of all that He has just said. Jesus was frequently amazed by people's unbelief, but only once was He ever amazed by someone's faith.
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- ☑ **Luke 7:1-3; Already, we've read a mouthful; we need to pause and fill in the gaps.** Jesus is going to be amazed by this man's faith, but already this man is amazing.
 - 1) He's a Centurion, not a rabbi, priest, teacher, synagogue ruler, or certain Jew. This title is what the Romans gave to their highest-ranking NCO's (non-commissioned officers), officers who'd earned their rank by impressing the Roman leadership.
 - ✓ They moved up by being battle tested; they were the soldier's soldier, the man's man, they led by example, knew how to fight courageously and lead others to do the same. As an honor to their war prowess, they were assigned the rank of Centurion and placed over roughly 100 soldiers.
 - ✓ They were the backbone of the Roman military organization. They were the best of the best. Typically, loyal, dedicated, self-sacrificing, but also ruthless, not known for kindness or compassion.

 - 2) He's a Pagan; He would have been raised in Roman culture with a pantheistic religion. **Verses 4-5;** He not only has overcome pagan beliefs but is a lover of the Jewish people.
 - ✓ The Jews have historically been hard to love especially if you are an occupier of their lands. He represented all that the Jews hated about Rome. Centurions were the face of Rome's military prowess. It's amazing that He had even so much as a cordial relationship with the Jews.
 - ✓ He's adopted the Jewish people, and he had adopted the Jewish God.
 - ✓ I dare say that they didn't do much to engender that love.
 - ✓ He's the face of the occupying country and the enforcer of the Emperor of Rome. He lived in a harshly divided world, but he was the glue in the midst of it.
 - 3) The Jews love him back; they go to bat for this guy. "He's worthy for You to do this." They are running an errand for Him and are pleading with Jesus on his behalf.
 - 4) He's built their synagogue. He built it and built it right, spent a lot of money in doing it, demonstrating a love for the Jews and the God of the Jews.
 - ✓ He loves his enemies, does good to those who mistreat him; faith was an action point that could be demonstrated by those who knew this man.
 - ✓ He's the flesh and blood of the sermon Jesus just preached.

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5) He loves his slave; this was unheard of. Aristotle, "There can be no friendship, nor justice toward inanimate things, indeed, not even toward a horse or an ox or slave."

✓ According to the norms of the day, you did away with a sick slave the same way you threw away a broken tool.

6) He has great humility, **verses 6-10**. It's like Jesus is saying, "**Now that is faith!**" Such a contrast from the Jewish leadership. "I am not worthy."

✓ This man was a ray of light in his dark world. Despite his background and reputation, he befriended his enemies, blessed their community, loved his slave, humbled his heart, obtained a great miracle from God.

↳ Do you want to be a person who amazes Jesus? It starts with how submitted you are to His will and how willing to follow His commands.

↳ Then how you treat your enemies; what you're known for in your community; how you spend your money and time; how you care for the least among us.
