

When Jesus Marveled at Faith

Matthew 8:5-13
Small Group Questions
WEEK OF JUNE 28-JULY 4, 2026

- (1) Read Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10 back-to-back.
 - (a) What facts about this moment in Jesus' ministry are similar in the two accounts? Different?
 - (b) Knowing that both Matthew and Luke are reporting accurately under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16), how can we understand the harmony between these two reports?
- (2) What aspects of Matthew 8:5-13 are surprising, especially to a first century Jewish reader? Why are these things significant?
- (3) Look at the contrast between the faith of the centurion (8:10) and that of the disciples (8:26). How do we make sense of this?¹
- (4) How does Jesus' response to the centurion's faith in verses 11-12 carry forward Matthew's theme of Gentile inclusion in the people of God?
 - (a) How did we see this theme in Jesus' genealogy in chapter 1?
 - (b) How about in chapter 2?
 - (c) What about in the ending of the entire book?
 - (d) How does this help us understand the nature of the Church? Consider this as you read Ephesians 2:11-16, Romans 11:11-26, and 1 Peter 2:9-10.
- (5) What was the centurion's core conviction about Jesus? How can we walk in that same conviction and grow in that conviction even more? (Again, specific is best!)

¹ Iain D. Campbell, *Opening up Matthew*, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2008), 61.