

# Unbelievable Belief

## Matthew 8:5-13

This chapter immediately follows Jesus' Sermon on the Mount—Jesus taught with authority in His sermon, but He backed it up with authoritative action

### What?

**Faith in the authority of the Lord brings salvation and eternal reward**

“Make it so”—

This centurion was the commander of the Roman cohort in Galilee, whose servant had suffered a sudden ailment

Verse 7 is a question—“Shall I come and heal him?”

Jesus was challenging the man's faith

The centurion indicated that he believed **Jesus had authority to command from a distance, as he did**

Jesus told His astounded Jewish followers that this Gentile's astonishing faith was greater than any He had found

Many more Gentiles will come from the east and west **to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

*Luke 12:37, NLT—“The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat!”*

But heirs of the kingdom will be eternally condemned

So with great authority in response to his faith, Jesus healed his servant at that very moment

**The Big Question—Why did Jesus challenge the man's faith?**

On the surface Jesus seemed to be referring to the fact that Jews became unclean by entering a Gentile home

A later encounter with a Canaanite woman sheds light

*Matthew 15:26–27, ESV—And he answered, “It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table”*

Jesus was saying, **“I have come first for the Jews, so why do you expect Me to come to heal your servant?”**

It wasn't His time yet to take the mission to the Gentiles

But the man answered with astounding faith, and how could Jesus refuse that?

### So What?

This is not just about obeying Jesus' authority, but about **being confident in His authority to act on our behalf**

This kind of faith will result in your participation someday in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Part of eternal suffering will be **remembering opportunity**

This is also the kind of faith that overcomes obstacles and challenges—**the Lord may put faith challenges in front of you**

The kind of faith that pleases Him is faith that says, **“Lord, I don't deserve Your favour, but I believe you have the power and authority to work for my benefit in this situation”**

The final say—John

*John 1:12, ESV—But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*

### Now What?

Check your faith in the Lord's authority to act for your benefit and His glory

Recognize faith challenges as an opportunity to exercise greater faith that pleases the Lord