

HE WAS AMAZED

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AMAZING IS DEFINED AS: "feeling or showing great surprise or wonder"

WE LOVE TO BE AMAZED

In 2021 Americans spent an average of 2.45 Billion Dollars at the movie theatre.

In 2019 Americans spent over 22 Billion Dollars on theme parks.

In 2019 Americans spent an average of 56 Billion Dollars on sporting events.

Over 18 million viewers a week watch America's got talent, The Voice and American Idol

TWO THINGS AMAZED JESUS

- LACK OF FAITH
- GREAT FAITH

LACK OF FAITH....MARK 6:1-6

- HE WAS AMAZED AT THEIR LACK OF FAITH
 - Another way to translate "their lack of faith" is simply, "unbelief"
 - Those in Jesus hometown had an obstacle of faith or unbelief, and Jesus was amazed at their unbelief.
 - Their familiarity with Jesus and his family blinded them to the truth of what Jesus was saying...despite the amazing miracles he was performing.
 - They could not get past their own pre-conceived notions and ideas of who Jesus was, or who they thought he was.
 - Those who knew Jesus best, should have been the first to believe and trust him instead we find Jesus amazed at their unbelief.
- THEIR UNBELIEF CARRIED A CONSEQUENCE
 - Jesus came home ready to share the good news and continue to perform many miracles.
 - The Bible says, "He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them"
 - Instead of enjoying the blessings that would've come with belief, their hardness and skepticism caused them to miss out on the blessings God would've had for them.
 - Jesus was not dependent upon their faith to perform miracles, Jesus performed miracles as evidence to all of who He was. Most in Nazareth were rejecting who he said he was, so nothing he would've done would've changed that.

- Scriptures give many examples of Jesus doing miracles where no faith...or little faith was involved: Mark 9:23 “ I believe, help my unbelief!” Lazarus was raised from the dead.....no faith was required by Lazarus!
- **LUKE 4:17-21 IS A PARALLEL PASSAGE**
 - **¹⁷ And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,**
 - **¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,**
 - **¹⁹ To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**
 - **²⁰ And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.**
 - **²¹ And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**
 - **It was clear that the people of Nazareth were rejecting Jesus as Messiah.**

GREAT FAITH...MATTHEW 8:5-13

- **THE CENTURION ROLE**
 - A man who likely had never meant or spoken to Jesus.
 - A centurion commanded a unit of around 100 legionaries but was also responsible for assigning duties, dishing out punishments, and performing various administrative duties.
 - They were historically hard on their own soldiers and dealt out severe discipline to their own.
 - Also responsible for carrying out crucifixions and other acts of violence.
 - They were typically good managers who were responsible for driving the Roman war machine throughout the Roman Empire.
 - They were hated by the Jewish people.
 - We also see that this centurion was a man of great faith. In fact he had more faith than anyone in Israel according to Jesus.
 - He recognized Jesus as Lord
 - He was humble, and realized who he was in light of who Jesus was, when he stated, "I do not deserve to have you under my roof"
 - He believed Jesus had the power to heal his servant and took the time to seek him out, despite their social and cultural differences.
 - **HE AMAZED JESUS!**
 - Jesus used this encounter to remind everyone that those who should've known about Jesus had rejected him, and that many others (outsiders) would come into the kingdom from the east and the west.

PEOPLE OF NAZARETH

- The two accounts could not be more opposite
- The Nazarenes knew Jesus, and should've recognized him as Lord
- The Nazarenes were part of God's chosen people
- The Nazarenes wanted no part of what Jesus had to offer
- John 1:11-12 "He came unto his own, but his own would not receive him". Isaiah 53:3 "He was despised and rejected".
- The Nazarenes were Amazed because they couldn't believe what Jesus was saying. They were full of unbelief...which, considering who they were, caused Jesus to be amazed.

CENTURION

- The Centurion was a pagan, who should've had no idea of who Jesus was
- The Centurion recognized Jesus as Lord
- The Centurion humbled himself and requested mercy and healing for his servant
- The Centurion showed Great Faith, considering who he was and where he came from...and that Amazed Jesus.

Application:

- Are you like those from Nazareth? Missing out on blessings in your life because of a lack of faith or unbelief?
- Are you not listening to something God is asking you to do, because you don't think he could use you?
- As a practical matter, maybe God has placed someone/s familiar in your life to help encourage you and build your faith. Are you willing to humble yourself and listen to those people? **or are you taking offense at them?**
- Will you step out on faith like the centurion, who realized he had nothing to give or do, but humbly ask the Lord for help in whatever it is God has planned for you?
- **Have you never placed your faith in Jesus? Are you ready to have the kind of Saving faith that Jesus finds Amazing? You can put your faith in him right now.**