

Sovereign Grace Church
“Healing at a Distance” outline
January 6, 2019

Matthew 8: 5-13

Jesus irritated a lot of people! He also attracted a lot of people. It also seems that this “attracting” ability had a lot to do with His “irritating” ability! This was because some of the people attracted to Him were not considered to be “our kind of people.” Lepers were outcasts of society and anyone who touched one was “unclean” according to the Old Testament law. Jesus healed the leper by touching him.

In the account we will look at today we see Jesus healing another social “outcast”. However this time the “outcast” was a member of the dominant class....the Romans. The Romans were Gentiles and thus excluded from normal life in Israel. Yet this Roman sought out Jesus in order to have his servant healed. Jesus didn't deliberately go to these outcasts....they came to Him. And they came to Him because they had something that many of the Jewish people did not have...though they should have had it! What these outcasts had was faith. The Jewish people were the people of God....called by Him to manifest an obedient life lived by faith in Him to a fallen world. However, many of them forgot the “faith” part and in time their obedience became twisted with their own traditional interpretations. They saw the laws of separation as indicating a real spiritual difference between themselves and the pagans. They had forgotten that the “faith” part was the essential part! In this healing episode Jesus shows that a pagan with faith was in a better spot than a Jew without it!

1. A Gentiles Plea for Help vv. 5-6
Matt 4:23-24

2. Jesus' very Abrahamic Response v. 7
Gen. 12:3; Jn 18:28

3. A Gentiles Faith vv. 8-9
Lk 7: 6-7

4. Jesus' Commendation and Prophecy vv. 10-12
 - Jesus marveled

- **The nature of faith**
Rom. 4: 13-14, 16; Jn 7: 16-18
- **Jesus' thought on Kingdom Residents**
Isa 25:6; Rom 3: 28-29

5. A Servant Healed v.13
Jms 1: 2-4

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. Are you saved? How do you know? What do you think “being saved” means? How was it that you procured such a favorable status? What did faith have to do with it? What did Jesus have to do with it? What did your family/church/country have to do with it?**
- 2. Is there a difference between claiming to have faith and having faith? What is the difference? Have you ever met someone who claimed to believe but gave little evidence of it? Do you think this person believed that he believed? If he did, what was the problem?**
- 3. Do you think it is easier to savingly believe in Christ if you were raised in a Christian home? Will being non-rebelliously raised in a Christian home be enough to find yourself in Christ's Kingdom? What else is required?**
- 4. Jesus heals the centurion's servant in light of the centurion's faith (v.13). Did Jesus always heal a person as a result of their faith? Do you think the servant had faith that Christ could heal him? Might this be an example of someone being healed as a result of another's faith? What might this tell us about praying for the sick?**