

## Marveling

*When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*

*Matthew 8:10*

As we observe this first instance of Matthew's use of the word "marvel," we ought to contemplate the meaning of the term in its context. The word means to wonder or admire. We find this from the Greek scholars of the original word, as well as from Webster of the English translation. It is used later in the chapter of the disciples marveling at Jesus calming the tempest, as they rhetorically question what manner of man He was. We can know that it does not mean that Jesus was surprised by the centurion's response of faith in Jesus' authority to heal his servant. John's gospel tells us plainly that Jesus knew all men and knew what was in man (John 2:24-25). His statement to those that followed provides more evidence of that at which He marveled. The comparison of the faith of this Gentile outsider to that of the Israelites He had met was something to contemplate and consider, especially as the disciples present were Israelites. We can note the corollary when Jesus returned to minister in Nazareth, "and he marvelled because of their unbelief" (Mark 6:6), as He did relatively few miracles there.

Thus, Jesus takes note of and emphasizes the lack of faith in those that ought to have more reason to believe, based on the knowledge that they have been given. The apostle Paul emphasized this to the Roman church in the early chapters of his epistle to them, as he contrasted the advantage of the Jews (Romans 2:14-3:2). We then, unto whom the word of God has been abundantly provided, should heed and apply this lesson and exhortation. Let Him not find in us a heart of unbelief that would cause Him to marvel at the contrasting faith of others, while we wrestle with intricacies of things known only to God. Instead, let us recognize and surrender to His authority attested by His word, leaving the secret things to belong to the Lord our God, and believing and doing the things revealed to us and to our children (Deuteronomy 29:29).