

Tim Malinowski - Jesus Marveled

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So let us begin. Jesus marveled. Today we're going to gather around two verses that open up a tender pathway into our Lord's heart. The Gospel tells us that there were two occasions when our Lord Jesus marveled, and I like the way you brought that emphasized Jesus marveled.

Because that's really what. What really got my attention. Jesus marveled when he, the Creator of all things, the Logos, who stood beside the Father before the foundation of the world and paused in astonishment as a perfect human at what he saw and felt regarding the actions of mankind. In Matthew 8:10. Matthew 8:10, he marveled at the faith of a gentile centurion in Capernaum.

In Mark 6:6, he marveled at the unbelief of his own neighbors in Nazareth.

Two seemingly similar moments, two drastically different responses by our Lord. One of faith filled him with joy. The other of unbelief filled him with sorrow. These two marvels of our Lord are not ancient curiosities. They are mirrors held up to each of us in our own hearts.

Faith and unbelief are still the two main forces shaping our consecrated lives. Faith opens the door to divine blessing. Unbelief closes it. Faith delights the Lord, unbelief grieves him. Faith says, speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

Unbelief says, is not this the carpenter's Son? Every life, every test, every season brings. Brings us nearer to one of those two marvels, and so we must ask ourselves, which amazement will the Master find in me and in you? One in faith or one in unbelief?

This study is important to me because it allows us to see Jesus not merely as a teacher and a savior, but as the one who feels as our sympathetic high priest, the one who marvels, rejoices and sorrows over the responses of the human heart. The same Lord who once marveled at faith and unbelief still observes our imperfect hearts today. His amazement reveals what heaven values most. Trust, humility, and an openness to the Word of God. Our purpose today is threefold.

First, to understand why Jesus marveled in each of these two brief moments. Second, to discern what those responses reveal about the human heart, both then and also today, and finally, to be personally encouraged to cultivate the kind of faith that brings joy to the Lord and honor and glory to our Heavenly Father. So how do we do this? We'll walk reverently through both gospel accounts.

Considering the centurion and Capernaum and the villagers in Nazareth. We'll listen to the voice of wisdom from Proverbs 8, reminding us who this marveling Jesus truly is, the eternal Logos, the Father's delight before the worlds began, and we will weave in Lessons from Reprint 3755, which shows how faith like that of Cornelius reveals the restorative resurrection power of Christ in the divine plan. Most of all, dear brethren, our aim today is not intellectual but spiritual. We seek not merely to study what made Jesus marvel, but to let that wonder touch our own hearts.

If through these thoughts, Lord willing, we can strengthen even one trembling faith, rekindle one discouraged spirit, or inspire one act of trust in God's goodness, then this study will have served its humble purpose. May our time together lead us to greater faith, deeper gratitude, and a renewed desire to bring honor and glory to our loving Heavenly Father, so that when the Lord looks upon us, he may again marvel not at unbelief but at our faith. To be amazed or to marvel means to be astonished, struck with wonder, even filled with reverent awe. When something beyond expectation appears, we can say, I'm amazed at a sunrise, a simple act of kindness, a changed life, or an

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answered prayer. Amazement mingles surprise with reverence when the ordinary gives way to the extraordinary.

And when the Lord Jesus marveled, it was not ignorance or surprise, but divine love moved by what he saw in the human heart. The Scriptures use several related words for amazement or astonishment, each revealing something about the heart's reaction to divine power. One of those words is ecstasis, meaning a standing outside of oneself, a state of wonder or awe that leaves one overwhelmed by what God has done. It's used in Mark 5:42 Mark 5:42 when the girl whom Jesus raised from the dead walked, and they were astonished with a great astonishment. This kind of amazement is holy, born of reverence and gratitude.

Another word is Thambos Strong's 2285, meaning to be struck with astonishment or even fear, as when the woman in the tomb saw the angel and were affrighted. Mark 16:5 Mark 16:5 Both forms describe hearts shaken by something greater than themselves. Think to yourself, when was the last time you were shaken in your life, either for good or for bad? That's what we're talking about here. Amazement can move us in two different directions.

Holy amazement draws us nearer to God, as when Peter stood at the empty tomb, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

Luke 24:12 empty amazement, however, stops at curiosity, as in Herod, who was exceedingly glad to see Jesus, but he was simply hoping to see a miracle and he never believed. Luke 23:89. Luke 23:89. One amazement becomes worship, the other becomes wasted effort. True amazement humbles the soul.

It does not end in spectacle, but in surrender. Let us therefore keep hearts that marvel rightly, not with Herod's shallow curiosity, but with Peter's holy wonder that bows low before the power and mercy of our Lord. Let us Read in Mark 6:2 and 2:7. Mark 6:2:7, and when the Sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue.

And many hearing him were astonished, saying, from whence hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joses, and of Judah and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us too? And they were what?

They were offended at him. But Jesus said unto them, a prophet is not without honor, but in his own country and among his own kin and his own house, and he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk and healed them, and he marveled because of their unbelief, and he went round about the villages teaching.

The people of Nazareth knew his trade. They knew his family, yet missed his true identity. They had watched him grow from a boy in Joseph's workshop, seen him plane wood, cut stone, and walk the same dusty roads that they did. They could name his brothers, greet his mother, recall the furniture he had built for their homes. Yet they could not perceive the divinity that had walked among them all those years.

Familiarity and comfort had dulled their reverence. What should have stirred wonder instead bred contempt. They stumbled not for the lack of evidence, but for the lack of humility. He was right there in front of them. Their unbelief was not an intellectual puzzle.

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It was a moral refusal to believe. The problem lay not in the head, but in the heart. Pride whispered, we know this man. But they did not know him as the Son of God, the Messiah right in front of them when Jesus spoke the gracious words that proceeded out of his mouth, and it reached his ears.

It reached his ears. It reached their ears, but not their hearts, and so blessing was limited, not because Christ's power had boundaries, but because unbelief built a barrier. The fountain of living water was right before them. Yet they chose thirst.

The sun of righteousness shone brightly in their sky. Yet they drew the shutters closed and lived in darkness. What a solemn warning for us. We too can become over familiar with sacred things Scriptures read without study and application, hymns sung without thought and meaning, meetings and conventions attended without love and without encouragement. Christ may stand in our midst, ready to bless.

Yet we receive little because we believe little. Let us therefore open wide the gates of our hearts that the King of glory may enter in Psalm 24:7 where faith welcomes him, grace abounds but where pride resists he, even heaven's power stands withheld. Faith is how we welcome God's grace unbelief is how we resist it. The Holy Spirit warns us about this tragedy of a hardened heart today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Hebrews 3:15 Hebrews 3:15 well before Bethlehem, well before Nazareth, Jesus was the Logos, the Word of God, by whom all things were made.

He who formed the worlds walked among creation in humility. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a God, and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

John 1:1 3:14 and yet when our Lord came home to his own village, the doors were closed. The Logos that heard, let there be light, was now met with silence and with doubt. Let us pause and consider why it is so astonishing that Jesus the Logos should marvel at mankind at all. Proverbs 8 opens a window into his pre human existence, into that radiant period when he was the first of all creation, rejoicing before the Father in perfect harmony. Let's Read from Proverbs 8:22 30 Proverbs 8:22 30 this is all from the King James Version.

The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old I was set up from everlasting from the beginning, or ever the earth was when there were no depths, I was brought forth when there were no fountains abounding with water, before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world, when he prepared the heavens, I was there. When he set a compass upon the face of the depth, when he established the clouds above, when he strengthened the fountains of the deep, when he gave to the sea his decree that the water should not pass his commandment, when he appointed the foundations of the earth, then I was by him as one brought up with him, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him. These verses describe not a man of Nazareth, but the eternal companion of the Almighty, the firstborn of all creation, the builder of galaxies, the channel through whom the Father's will flowed into being. I was daily his delight, sharing in divine joy, beholding perfect order, never tasting sin or sorrow. Now imagine that same glorious being, the Logos, clothed in human flesh, standing in a dusty Galilean village, looking into the eyes of men who doubt Him.

The One who saw the foundation of the earth laid now witnesses human hearts refusing, refusing foundation in faith. The one who commanded the seas to stay in bounds now faces men and

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women who will not be still before him, and so we must ask, is it any wonder that he marveled in Capernaum? He marveled that such faith could exist in a Gentile soldier, Faith that recognized divine authority with no proof, but only a word. The Logos who rejoiced before the Father now rejoiced as our Savior to find in mankind a single heart that believed in Him.

In Nazareth he marveled again, but this time with grief. The same Son who had watched the Father set a compass upon the face of the deep now beheld human hearts without compass or depth. In him, those who should have known him best were strangers to his voice. It was not ignorance, but arrogance. It was not lack of evidence, but lack of reverence.

And herein lies the practical application of our Heavenly Father's plan for His Son. That the Eternal Son of God. Daily the Father's delight should humble himself to the point of wonder, to feel amazement at the faith and unbelief of the Father's creation. He who once rejoiced before the Father now marveled at mankind. What does this tell us?

That our faith still moves the heart of Heaven? Our Lord and Savior who rejoiced in creation, now rejoices in our redemption and the pending redemption of all mankind. Every act of trust, every quiet surrender, every moment of believing against the flesh. Flesh is a new reason for him to delight in us, and every moment of unbelief still grieves him.

Because it is not ignorance he beholds, but the refusal of hearts he came to save. When we doubt him, the Lord does not merely observe it, he feels it. If we could see his face at those moments of our doubt, we would understand what our unbelief does to his heart. Just as a child looks up and sees the sorrow in a parent's eyes and knows without a word that their behavior has wounded love, so would we see in our Savior's brilliance a quiet grief. Not anger, but tenderness pained.

The eyes that once wept over Jerusalem would be wet again with compassion for us. He does not condemn the weak in faith, but he sorrows when those He Loves most cannot rest in his goodness. If we could see that look of gentle disappointment, we would never again want to doubt Him. Faith would spring to life not from fear of his displeasure, but from the longing to bring joy to the One who has loved us so faithfully. Let that vision be enough to strengthen our hearts, to believe more readily, to trust more deeply, and to love more completely the Lord who feels with us and for us.

To whom much is given, much is required. Nazareth had the greatest privilege, the presence of God's Son in front of them and yet refused it. Privilege without faith leads to greater accountability. As the Lord said of Capernaum, if the mighty works done in thee had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Matthew 11:23 and 24. For us today, the lesson is clear. Unbelief still limits blessing. God's power has not weakened. His willingness has not changed.

Faith invites Christ to work. Unbelief sends him to the next village. He could do. He could do there. No mighty work is one of the saddest lines in Scripture.

Let us gather five lessons from Nazareth that we may understand what unbelief cost Nazareth and what faith can bring to us today. These lessons remind us that Jesus not only marveled at faith, but also at unbelief. Lesson 1. Unbelief blinds the eyes, even amid evidence. John 12:37.

John 12:37. But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they had believed not on Him. The people of Nazareth stood before the very light of the world, yet could not see Him. They

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had watched him grow, heard his gracious words and seen his works. Yet pride and prejudice clouded their vision.

When unbelief takes root in our lives, evidence ceases to matter. It blinds the eyes that were meant to behold truth. Jesus was in plain sight, but their hearts were closed to Him. I used to work with an engineer who refused to accept a simple design. This was a solution for the entire group.

But he didn't accept it because it came from a younger colleague. Only when a senior manager repeated the same idea, the exact same idea, did he acknowledge it. Pride had hidden truth in plain view. That is exactly what happened in Nazareth. They could not see because they would not yield.

Unbelief is not a failure of intellect. It is a failure of humility. When we stop expecting to see God's hand, we will soon stop recognizing it, even when it moves before our eyes. Lesson number two. Unbelief limits usefulness and joy.

Mark 6:5. 6. Mark 6:5 through 6:5 and 6 and he could there do no mighty work save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk and healed them, and he marveled because of their unbelief. Unbelief never cancels God's power.

It is always there. But it can limit his work in our lives. The text does not say Jesus would not do mighty works in Nazareth. It says he could not. Did I lose something?

The people's hardness made his ministry there small, restricted to a few sick folk. Where faith builds channels, unbelief builds dams. Think of how often we pray, how often I pray, how often without truly expecting an answer, I go through the words. But my heart already assumes disappointment. Later, when the Lord does answer, I realize how little peace I felt while waiting.

Faith not only brings results, it brings joy in the waiting. Nazareth had the author of life among them, but they never tasted the joy of trusting Him. Let us not make the same mistake when we trust His Word before the outcome, our hearts find peace long before our prayers can be answered.

Lesson 3 Unbelief grieves the heart of Christ Luke 19:41 and 42 Luke 19:41 and 42 and when he was come near, he beheld the city and wept over it, saying, if thou hast known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace, but now they are hid from Thine eyes. When Jesus marveled at Nazareth's unbelief, his heart was not angry, it was broken. Just as he later wept over Jerusalem, he sorrowed over hearts that refused his grace. Unbelief does not merely disappoint the Lord. It wounds him because it denies him the joy of giving.

To us. Love longs to be trusted, and nothing pains love more than doubt. A parents once shared with me that the hardest thing about raising teenagers wasn't their rebellion as they grew old. It was when their children stopped trusting them. They used to believe what I wanted was best for them, she told me.

But now they question my motives. That is a glimpse of how unbelief grieves Christ. His desires are confidence even when we do not understand his ways. If we could see his face when he doubted us, I believe we would never want to doubt him again. Lesson 4.

Unbelief leads to barrenness. Faith bears fruit. John 15:5 John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without me ye can do nothing. Faith connects us to divine life.

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Unbelief severs that connection, Nazareth remained barren. Not because Christ lacked power, but because they refused to abide in him. When faith abides, fruit grows. Love, patience, gentleness, humility, love and joy. Said love twice, that's good.

But when unbelief reigns, the branch withers and it dies. Spiritual dryness is not always caused by sin. Sometimes it comes simply from self reliance. I remember when I was asked to conduct a funeral service for my father in law, brother Dick Anderson. My first reaction was hesitation.

I felt deeply, deeply unworthy of the task. Uncertain that I could find the right words to comfort his family or honor his faithful life. For several days I wrestled with notes, scriptures and outlines. But nothing seemed to come together for me. My mind was full, but yet my heart was empty.

I left it to the Lord in prayer that night, asking for help and for guidance. The next morning I awoke. I felt refreshed as I stood before the brethren, as I stand before you today. Peace replaced my fear. The words began to flow, not rehearsed, but heartfelt.

The scriptures opened naturally. The the Holy Spirit brought comfort far beyond my own ability. That experience taught me what Jesus meant when he said, without me ye can do nothing. My preparation was important. It was necessary.

But it was abiding in Christ that made the moment fruitful and blessed. Unbelief would have left me barren. Relying on self, faith connected me again to our Lord and to our Savior. When we surrender our efforts and invite the Lord to lead, even our service becomes a blessing. Lesson 5.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Romans 10:17. So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, and brother Homer covered this very well. The tragedy of Nazareth was not ignorance of the Word, but they heard it, but they did not receive it.

Hearing without heeding hardens the heart. We talked about that every time the Word speaks and we resist. Unbelief grows stronger every time we yield to the Word. Faith deepens. Faith is born in the heart that listens not merely with the ear, but also with the heart.

At a recent seminar a young brother shared with me that that during his first few conventions he didn't feel anything yet. He kept attending studies, he kept fellowshipping. He kept singing hymns and reading scripture. Then one morning he said, it suddenly opened up. God really loves me.

His faith came through that continual hearing. The Word had been quietly softening his heart all along. The centurion in Capernaum must have heard reports about Jesus and believed what he heard and faith took root. What we listen to, what we listen to shapes what we believe. Nazareth's story stands as both a warning and an invitation.

Unbelief, blinds, limits, grieves and withers. But faith opens, enlarges, comforts, and bears fruit. Faith is not a feeling. It is the choice. It is the choice to trust the word of God.

Even when sight fails. Let us be among those who cause our Lord to marvel with joy, not sorrow, believing fully, abiding deeply, and hearing continually until faith becomes sight and the marvels of heaven fill the earth.

Let's move on. Matthew 8:5 13. Matthew 8:5 13 and when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him and saying, lord, my servant lieth at home, sick, sick of the palsy, grievously tormented, and Jesus saith unto him, I will come, and I will heal him.

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The centurion answered and said, lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this man, go, and he goeth, and to another come, and he cometh, and to my servant do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard, he marveled and said to them that followed, verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

And I say unto you that many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out of outer darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, and Jesus said unto the centurion, go thy way, and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.

And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. The setting is Capernaum, a city already blessed with many miracles, yet not always with faith to match. Into this scene steps a Roman centurion, a man of rank and discipline, commander of about 100 soldiers. He's not of Israel. He stands outside the covenant people.

Yet in this gentile soldier, Jesus finds a faith that outshines all he has seen in Israel. The centurion's request is simple, and Lord, my servant lieth at home, sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. He doesn't come for himself, he comes for another. Here we already glimpse the spirit of Christlikeness, compassion for the suffering.

The centurion had power over men, but he could not command healing. So he comes humbly to the one whose authority is, he knows, is absolute.

Without Hesitation. Jesus responds, I will come and I will heal him. Notice the immediacy of that grace. No delay, no questioning of worthiness, only a readiness to bless. The Lord's heart was always moved by human need.

Yet the centurion's reply reveals a depth of humility and faith that stops even our Lord in his tracks. The centurion answers, lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof. But speak the Word only, and my servant shall be healed. Here is true faith clothed in humility. The centurion recognizes two great truths, who he is and who Jesus is.

He knows his own unworthiness. He knows the Lord's authority. He does not demand presence. He trusts in power. His confidence rests not in sight, but in the spoken word.

Speak the word only. No touch, no sign, no ceremony. Only the Word that is the essence of faith. Trusting the unseen word of God. More than visible proof, humility and faith are inseparable.

The proud heart insists on proof. The humble heart believes the promise. The centurion saw in Jesus the same command structure he lived as a Roman officer. I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. He knew that authority flows from above and that when Jesus spoke, sickness itself obeyed.

What a remarkable insight for a man with no training in the law or the prophets. He understood what even Israel's scholars had missed, that the authority of Jesus was and is divine.

Verse 10 declares, When Jesus heard it, he marveled. What an incredible statement. The one who designed the human mind, who measures the oceans in his hand, who numbers the stars,

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marveled at the faith of a single man. The Son, who rejoiced with the Father before the foundation of the world, now rejoices and is amazed to find in a Gentile heart a reflection of that same divine trust. This is not surprise from ignorance.

It is divine delight. I like that divine delight in human faith. Jesus saw in the centurion's trust a glimpse of the faith that would one day fill the entire world, and so he says, verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith. No, not in Israel.

What a contrast among the Nazarenes who had the promises, he found resistance. Among the raw centurion, he found belief. It is as if heaven pauses to celebrate that the blessings of Abraham will soon reach many who shall come from the east and from the west, sitting down with the patriarchs in the kingdom. This was a prophetic moment, a preview of the gospel age when Gentiles would be grafted into the promise of faith.

I'm running out of time.

Why was this faith so important then? And why does it remain so important today? First, because it marked the turning point of grace. The gospel was never meant to remain confined to one nation. This Gentile's faith opened the door to the truth that God is no respecter of persons.

Acts 10:34. This centurion was a forerunner proof that faith, not ancestry, grants access to divine favor. It was faith that bridged the gap between the chosen nation and the waiting world. Second, this faith illustrates the power of the Word. Brother Homer touched on this very well.

The centurion believed that Jesus command was enough. Speak the word only, he said. He grasped the creative authority of divine speech. That same word still speaks in our hearts today. We may not see the miracle instantly, but when faith clings to his promise, the healing begins that very hour.

Third, it remains vital because it reveals the kind of faith that pleases God, a faith that rests on who he is, not what we see. The centurion didn't need signs. He trusted Jesus. He believed that the authority of Jesus was not limited by distance or circumstance. That is the faith that still makes heaven marvel today when we say, lord, I trust you, even though I do not see.

The Lord still rejoices in that same faith, and finally, the story reminds us that faith is not limited by background. The centurion was a soldier, not a scholar. He was a foreigner, not a disciple. Yet he grasped spiritual truth more deeply than many who had actually walked with Jesus.

Faith is not a matter of position, but of perception. God still seeks such hearts today, humble, trusting and ready to take him at his word.

I have a few thoughts, but I'm going to move past those.

Dear brethren, as we conclude our thoughts, let us carry with us the wonder that our Lord, the very one who made the stars and formed the human heart, once marveled at faith and at unbelief. In the Centurion of Capernaum, he saw a heart that he trusted His Word alone and rejoiced in unseen authority. In Nazareth. He saw hearts too familiar, too proud, too close to receive the blessing before them, and so we today stand between those two marvels, choosing which will define our own hearts.

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The same Jesus still walks among us, not in the flesh, but in spirit, looking for those who will take him at his word and say, lord, speak and I will believe. Each time we choose faith over fear, trust over doubt, gratitude over complaint, we bring joy to his heart and honor and glory to our Heavenly Father. The faith that makes him marvel is not loud or complicated. It is simple, sincere and steadfast it says, lord, I am not worthy, but speak the word only. My mom used to tell me something, and I don't know where she got.

I'm sure she got it from a reprint. But she said fear knocked at my door. Faith answered. No one was there. That simple.

May our lives then become living testimonies of the faith which honors God, comforts others, and delights the Savior's heart, and when faith is finally turned into sight, we may hear his tender words of approval. As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. To him be all the honor, all the glory, and all the praise, now and forever, Amen.