



October 11th - Rev Adam Delaplane

Matthew 8:5-13

5 When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, 6 "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." 7 And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. 11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, 12 while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 13 And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

What is so astonishing about the centurion's faith, and how could I have faith that strong?

- **Strong Faith Recognizes the Authority of Jesus**

This requires our humility and awareness which is difficult in a culture that values self promotion, entertainment and distraction.

- **The Object of Strong Faith is Jesus**

The quality of our faith is found in the object of our faith rather than the confidence of our faith. Weak faith in Jesus is greater than strong faith in anything else. This is challenging in a culture that values how hard you believe something over the object.

- **Strong Faith Embraces the Kingdom of Jesus**

When we embrace Jesus and his Kingdom it changes the shape of our lives. It disrupts, rearranges, and conforms every aspect of our lives to the person and mission of Jesus. This was an unwelcome reality for many of the Jewish leaders during Jesus' ministry who thought their heritage made them more worthy of the Kingdom than outsiders, and it is equally challenging to the idols we cling to in our lives.

What aspects of Jesus' power and authority did you find surprising or incredible in this passage?

What kinds of daily routines, stimulus, thoughts, etc. make it difficult to recognize and submit to the authority of Jesus? What are some changes we could make that would help us to regularly meditate and rest in the authority of Jesus?

The sermon described what could be called a spiritual law of physics: The quality of our faith is directly related to the object of our faith. We tend to think that we must believe perfectly or at least confidently before we can exercise our faith. What would it look like to take small and uncertain steps in our faith that might grow our trust in Jesus?



Embracing Christ's Kingdom means inviting a constant disruption into our lives as Jesus reorients our priorities and rearranges our routines in conformity to him. As you follow Jesus, what are some ways you have seen this take shape in your life?

The centurion understood and described the authority of Jesus based on his understanding of authority in his profession. What are some ways that you could understand and describe Jesus, his power and authority, or his kingdom based on your own work, hobbies and life experiences?



October 5th - Rev Hugh Barlett

Matthew 6:25–34 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Let Father’s provision ground you & surround you

- Concerns: Responsible attention/action minus control over results
- Situational Anxiety: moments of Safety, health, etc.
- Chronic Anxiety: “20%” biological, trauma disorders
- Habitual Anxiety: regular unholy/unhealthy preoccupations
- His providence is powerfully present
- *Birds, Lilies, grass*
- His perspective challenges our fears
 - *Is not life more than food?*
 - *Are you not more valuable than they?*
 - *Which of you can add a single hour to your life?*
 - *Will He not clothe us?*
- Your Father knows and notices your needs
- As we seek first His kingdom, we see abundant gifts
- Face today’s concerns, let God hold tomorrow

In the last verse of Matthew 5, Christ calls us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect—displaying a righteousness that is not superficial, but an absolute dependence upon our Heavenly Father. How does this passage reveal God’s provision for His creation and us?

Notice how God’s providence reaches to birds and lilies, and grass. How does this broad concern reveal God’s character?

What are humans in comparison to the created world of animals and plants?

Our Father knows what we need. Do we often feel that we know our needs better than God?



What would it look like to seek first the “kingdom of God and His righteousness?”

How has God provided for you in your life?

How does anxiety loosen its grip when we look to God’s provision for us?

What is the wisdom of verse 34?