



# MATTHEW

## 8 : 5-13

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to **obey** everything I have commanded you.” — Matthew 28:19-20a*

*“The Baptist Church of Franklin exists to make **more** and **better** followers of Jesus Christ.” — BCF Membership Binder*

### **OBSERVE and REFLECT**

#### **Read Matthew 8:5-6**

- The centurion came pleading with Jesus to heal his servant. What about the centurion’s position in life might’ve cause him to care so much about his servant?

#### **Read Matthew 8:7-9**

- In what ways did the centurion recognize Jesus’ authority?
- How is God’s authority different than the centurion’s earthly authority?

#### **Read Matthew 8:10-13**

- Why was Jesus astonished at the centurion’s statement?
- What did Jesus say would be the case in the end, when people come to celebrate in the Kingdom of heaven? Who is in? Who is out? How might this have been surprising to the people who were following Jesus?

## **OBEY**

1. In this world, the centurion was a man with great authority. He had control of many people and situations. His servant's illness woke him up to his complete lack of control.
  - i. In what areas of our life are we tempted to think we have control?
  - ii. Describe a time when God woke you up to the realization that you were not in control.
2. The centurion acknowledged Jesus' authority over sickness and his ability to even heal from a distance.
  - i. How does this understanding of Jesus differ from the way Jesus is often portrayed in popular culture?
  - ii. Do you ever worry Jesus might not have authority over some area of your life (or some area of the world)? How so?
3. Jesus claimed that salvation is by grace alone. God wants those who come to him in complete humility, admitting their dependency on him.
  - i. How is this different than other religious ideas about salvation, or secular ideas about personal improvement?
  - ii. In what ways are Christians tempted to think they are "in" apart from the free grace of God?
4. What might be another real-life application God wants us to hear in this passage? This could be a *command* to obey, a *faith principle* to be reinforced, or an *attitude* to be changed.

## **\*\*Weekly Bonus Questions\*\***

- What's one "a-ha" moment you've taken away from this discussion?
- What's one thing you should do differently this week because of what you've learned here?