

THE SURPRISE OF FAITH (Matthew 8:5-10)

Introduction: *We all like surprises..... most of the time*

I. WHEN WE READ THE MIRACLE ACCOUNTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE

- A. The surprise is what they teach us about faith
- B. One key idea appears again and again: **Faith appears where least expected and falters where it should be thriving.**
 - 1. The Roman Centurion (Matthew 8)
 - 2. The Canaanite woman (Matthew 15)
- C. How do you respond to such great faith on the part of others?
 - 1. Are you threatened?
 - 2. Do you identify with the one who said: “*Lord, I do believe, but help Thou my unbelief!*” (Mark 9:24)

II. SOMETIMES JESUS WAS SURPRISED BY THE LACK OF FAITH IN THOSE WHO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER

- A. Note the disciples in a boat during a storm (Mark 4:35-41)
- B. How about John the Baptist, and Peter, James & John, and Judas, and Thomas?
- C. We are surprised by the truth: **Faith appears where least expected and falters where it should be thriving.**
- D. How about us today?

III. HERE'S A WONDERFUL SURPRISE: GOD IS FAITHFUL, EVEN WHEN WE ARE NOT

- A. This is the very testimony of Holy Scripture:
 - *God is faithful, through whom you were called in fellowship with His Son.* (I Cor, 1:9)
 - *Faithful is He who calls you, and he will bring it to pass.* (II Thess. 5:24)
 - *But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen & protect you from the evil one* (II Thess 3:3)
 - *If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself* (II Tim. 2:13)

- B. When you are “**cross-eyed**”, you clearly see His faithfulness to you

Conclusion: A lesson in faith from the Cabrinni Green Housing projects:
faith appears where least expected