**Making Jesus Marvel**

*Mark 6:6; Matthew 8:10*

**Introduction**

1. On only two occasions in the Gospels is there a record of Jesus being made to “marvel.” (**cf. Matthew 8:10** – With the centurion**; Mark 6:6** – With His own relatives, and hometown folk.)
2. ***“marveled”*** – *thaumazō* – to wonder; by implication to admire: - admire, have in admiration, marvel, wonder. (Strong)
   1. Not that He was taken by surprise – Jesus is ***“He who searches the hearts” (Romans 8:27).***
   2. **However, although He knew the hearts of the ones who made Him marvel on both occasions, their actions and character still ASTOUNDED/IMPRESSED Him.**
3. It is impressive that **the One Whose works are called marvelous (cf. Psalm 9:1)**, Who has ***“marvelous lovingkindness” (Psalm 17:7),*** and *can rightly be described as marvelous Himself was made to marvel*.
   1. As will be seen in the instances Jesus was made to marvel, **His marveling can be something positive, or negative.**
   2. **Let us make sure we make Jesus marvel in a positive manner.**
4. “He marveled”
5. His Own Country’s Unbelief (**cf. Mark 6:1-6)**
   1. **(vv. 1-2)** – Jesus taught at Nazareth, the town where He grew up, and performed ***“mighty works”*** there.
      1. ***“He began to teach:”***
         1. **Cf. Luke 4:17-22** – Read from Isaiah, and indicated that the prophecy was at that time being fulfilled in Him.
         2. **(v. 22a)** – Their initial response was positive – ***“marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth.”***
      2. ***“Where did this Man get these things?:”***
         1. **Things** – which He taught.
         2. **Wisdom and Mighty Works** – They recognized them for what they were – TRUE AND DEEP WISDOM, and OBVIOUS MIRACLES.
      3. ***Their unbelief was in spite of the enormous evidence, and because of their prejudices 🡪***
   2. **(v. 3)** – They recognized the wisdom, and mighty works, but questioned the validity of Jesus Himself simply because of who He was.
      1. **Carpenter** – a humble calling – does not necessitate vast wisdom.
      2. **Relationship to His specific family (mother, and siblings)** – His wisdom surpasses theirs, and they can do no mighty work.
      3. ***“So they were offended at Him”*** – because of their unbelief.
   3. **(vv. 4-6)** – Jesus marveled at their unbelief despite the evidence.
      1. **(v. 4)** – His popularity had grown throughout Galilee as He taught, and performed miracles, YET HE WAS REJECTED BY HIS OWN.
      2. **(vv. 5-6)** – He did not continue to do ***“mighty works”*** because of their unbelief.
         1. ***“HE MARVELED BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF”*** – It impressed Him!
         2. **They saw the evidence! If anything, His upbringing which caused them to doubt should have indicated that He was different.**
         3. ***He was the Messiah*** *(Which the quotation from Isaiah, and His comments on the text concerning Him should have indicated.),* ***the Son of God, with authority from God!***
6. The Centurion’s Faith **(cf. Matthew 8:5-13)**
   1. **(vv. 5-7)** – The centurion at this point shows faith.
      1. This was something that had happened between Jesus and others before.
      2. **He healed people, people saw, and many brought themselves and their sick to Him to be healed.**
      3. Jesus does not yet MARVEL…
   2. **(vv. 8-10)** – The centurion not only showed great humility before Jesus, but an impressive understanding of the power Jesus possessed, thus, in part, who Jesus was.
      1. **(v. 8)** – His humility is shown – ***“I am not worthy”***
      2. **(v. 9)** – Understanding of authority in general, and specifically of Jesus’ authority, and power to heal.
         1. **Centurion** – commander of 100 men. (He knew what it meant to have authority.)
         2. **Jesus has power (authority) to heal** – If Jesus has such authority to heal (which He has already displayed, and the centurion believed in), then He does not need to be present. All He needs to do is speak.
      3. **(v. 10)** – This made Jesus marvel!
         1. Jesus compared the centurion to the Israelites.
         2. **He came to the Israelites, but the did not believe in Him – THIS GENTILE DID!**
7. **The stark contrast between the two:** “Boles notes: The place and the people where he had a right to expect great faith, he found only unbelief, and where even the Jews did not expect to find anything good, Jesus found ‘so great faith’ (190).” (Kyle Pope. Truth Matthew Commentary (Kindle Locations 5780-5783). Guardian of Truth Foundation.)
8. What is belief/unbelief?
   1. **For the sake of making application regarding our own belief or unbelief making Jesus marvel, it is helpful to remember what belief and unbelief includes:**
   2. *Belief and unbelief is not simply the thought of belief, but the activity to which it leads:*
      1. **Romans 1:5; 16:26** – the bookends of Romans, a book which considers saving faith, show that faith that saves is obedient faith.
         1. Faith and obedience are closely related in scripture.
         2. ***“obedience of faith” (NASB)***
         3. **Faith = obedience, and obedience = faith. (THEY GO HAND IN HAND)**
      2. This is how faith and obedience are related throughout scripture – **cf. Deuteronomy 9:23** – Did not believe or obey the commandment.
      3. ***“But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our report?’” (Romans 10:16)***
   3. **Cf. Matthew 7:24-27** – We must believe in Jesus, not by simply believing that He IS, but placing our full trust in Him by adhering to His word.
   4. **Do we make Jesus marvel by our belief/obedience, or by out unbelief/disobedience? 🡪**
9. Making Jesus Marvel (Two examples)
10. Negative – Forsaking the Assembly **(cf. Hebrews 10:19-25**)
    1. **(vv. 24-25)** – The assembly is not a suggestion, but a command of God!
       1. **When Jesus gives a command we must understand His authority like that of the centurion. 🡪**
       2. *If Jesus says it, then it MUST BE DONE!*
       3. **It is God’s design for His people to receive the exhortation needed to continue faithfully!** (*To neglect it is to neglect ourselves, but also to neglect adherence to the specific pattern laid out by God Himself!*)
       4. **SUCH BLATANT DISOBEDIENCE IS SURE TO CAUSE JESUS TO MARVEL! (Especially when the commandment, like all of them do, works toward our salvation!)**
       5. **(v. 26)** – Is specifically regarding the disobedience of forsaking the assembly!
    2. **Consider the context as well:** (Which shows further how egregious it is to forsake the assembly)
       1. **Earthly service of sanctuary** – **9:6-8** – this indicated that the way to God was not yet open!
       2. **Christ ministered in the true Holiest** – **9:11-12** – God could not be approached before, but Christ made approaching Him possible 🡪
       3. **10:19-23** – Jesus, our ***“forerunner” (6:20),*** has taken His blood into the Holiest of All so that we could ourselves enter in behind the veil.
          1. We can approach God with boldness because we are washed in Jesus’ blood (when we were baptized).
          2. We approach God through Jesus – who is ***“the way” (John 14:6).***
          3. THIS INCLUDES OUR WORSHIP WHEN WE ASSEMBLE **(vv. 24-25).**
          4. **NOTE: (v. 25b)** – the assembly is to help us continue until being in God’s presence is consummated on ***“the Day approaching.”***
       4. When someone forsakes the assembly, they (1) disobey a command from God, and **(2) show an indifference about what Jesus has provided for us in His death!**
       5. **This FOR CERTAIN will cause Jesus to marvel! (Do you make Jesus marvel in this way?)**
11. Positive – Faith During Adversity (**cf. Hebrews 10:32-35; James 1:2-4; 5:1-11)**
    1. **Hebrews 10:32-35** – One of the reasons these Hebrew Christians were forsaking the assembly was possibly because of persecution.
       1. The persecution was causing them to lose their faith.
       2. The Hebrew writer reminded them of their faith before, and encouraged them to continue in it!
       3. **Enduring adversity by maintaining faithful obedience will surely make Jesus marvel 🡪**
    2. **James 1:2-4** – When trials befall us, we are given a chance to prove our faithfulness, and grow what faith we have.
       1. ***“count it all joy”*** – because it strengthens us by producing ***“patience”*** (endurance).
       2. **BUT ALSO** – It is a ***“testing of your faith”***
          1. *When we fall into a trial and tribulation, our faith is tested.*
          2. **This does not come from God** **(v. 13),** but is ALLOWED BY GOD.
          3. ***“count it all joy”*** – FOR THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE GOD/JESUS MARVEL AT YOUR GREAT FAITH.
    3. **James 5:4-11** – The rich had oppressed the poor, but the poor were to keep their faith, and be patient.
       1. **Even while they were being oppressed, some to the extent of murder, they had opportunity to make Jesus marvel at their great trust in Him.**
       2. **(vv. 7-8)** – Patient like the farmer for their reward, and the justice which is due.
       3. **(vv. 9-11)** – Not reverting to grumbling, thus sinning, but being steadfast like the great prophets and Job.
       4. ***To be counted among the prophets and Job with such faith is sure to make Jesus marvel!***
    4. **May we all maintain faith in great trials to impress Jesus with our faith in Him!**

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus marveled at unbelief and belief both.
2. Each day we have opportunity to believe in Jesus, showing our faithfulness as we conform to His will.
3. **Jesus takes notice, *and is perhaps at times affected to the extent of marveling*, of our faithfulness or lack thereof.**
4. **We must make sure we are Making Jesus Marvel with our great faith and obedience, not unbelief.**