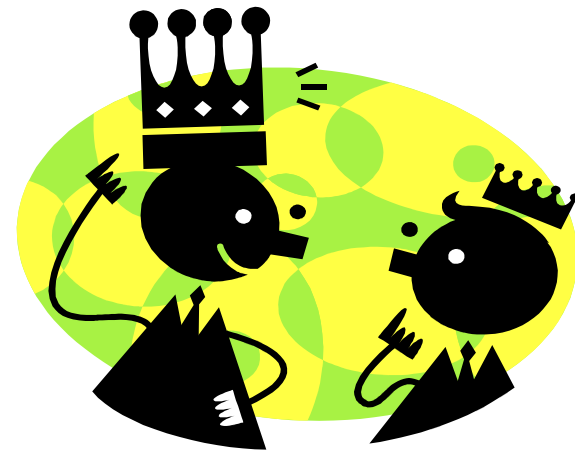


**SERMON NOTES SERIES**

**PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES**

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# **BRAGGING FAITH**



**DR. JOHN PELIZZARI, PH.D.  
SENIOR PASTOR**

Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9).*** I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,  
Pastor John

## RESOURCES USED

- \* The Companion Bible
- \* Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- \* Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- \* A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- \* Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- \* The American College Dictionary
- \* World's Bible Handbook
- \* The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- \* Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- \* The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- \* God's Plan For Man
- \* Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- \* Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- \* Manners And Customs From the Bible
- \* What The Bible Is All About
- \* Halley's Bible Handbook

*These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!*

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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## OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

*Hosea 4:6*

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

*Proverbs 23:7*

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

*Colossians 1:9*

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

*Proverbs 24:3-5*

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

*Mark 13:10*

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,  
*John and Karen Pelizzari*

## BRAGGING FAITH

**Matthew 8:5-6 [5] And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, [6] And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.**

1. When you read this in the King James version, the word “*palsy*” can throw you off.
2. In our minds, we would think of something like cerebral palsy, which has long term cause and effect.
  - a. We would think that it took several years for this disease to bring this suffering servant to his present condition.
  - b. But the NLT clears it up for us.

**Matthew 8:5-6 (NLT) [5] When Jesus arrived in Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, [6] "Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and racked with pain."**

3. So what we have here is a medical emergency.

- a. Something happened to this servant that left him paralyzed and racked with pain.

**Matthew 8:6 (MSG) "Master, my servant is sick. He can't walk. He's in terrible pain."**

- 4. So this centurion is seeking help.

**Matthew 8:7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.**

- 5. Understand that Jesus is a representation of God's will in action here on this earth.
- 6. So God has a plan for your emergencies as well. All your bases have been covered.
  - a. So He tells the centurion that He's on His way.
- 7. We have a tendency to underestimate Jesus' willingness to meet our every need, even in the midst of crisis.

**Matthew 8:8-9 [8] The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. [9] 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.**

- 8. Understand what this centurion represents / symbolizes to the Jewish mind set.

- a. This man is the leader of a band of soldiers whose job is to keep God's people under subjection.
- b. These Romans have used and abused the Jews for a long time.
- c. These soldiers served a government that was oppressing the Jews.
- d. The Jews were hoping that the promised Messiah would unite the twelve tribes of Israel and free them from Roman oppression, whom some Jewish sects thought that Rome was the antichrist.
- e. So now this unfit, unqualified soldier is asking God for favors.

- 9. Allow me to say that we have heard many wonderful teachings on this from a countless number of anointed ministers. But, if you are familiar with this ministry, you know we are going to look at it from another angle or two.

**Matthew 8:10-12 [10] When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. [11] And I say unto you, That many shall come from**

**the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. [12] But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

10. In a nutshell, Jesus is saying, *“I haven’t found this kind of faith in Israel, my home.”*
11. There is coming a day in the kingdom of heaven when people will come from the east and from the west (which is a reference to the Gentiles) and will sit down with the fathers of the Jewish faith Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. However, the children of the kingdom (the Jews) will be cast into outer darkness.
12. Understand that the Jews thought they were automatically *“in”* with God because they were born Jews. This is the same with people who have been in church for a long time.
  - a. But physical birth doesn’t mean anything with the Lord.
  - b. It’s the new birth that matters.
  - c. This man expressed faith and that’s what Jesus had been looking for.

**Matthew 8:13 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.**

13. So the centurion gets what he asked for.
14. Now, I want you to know that this incident is repeated in the book of Luke with a little more detail about the centurion.

**Luke 7:1-10 [1] Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. [2] And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. [3] And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. [4] And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: [5] For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue. [6] Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof: [7] Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. [8] For I also am a man set**

**under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. [9] When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. [10] And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.**

15. This centurion is a nice guy, a giver. He loves the Jews so much that he helped the Jews build a synagogue.
16. If you caught it, you would think that this incident totally contradicts the events in Matthew. How?
  - a. In Matthew it is stated the centurion came to see Jesus.
  - b. Here it's different, let's look at it.

**Luke 7:3-4 [3] And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. [4] And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:**

17. In Matthew, the centurion goes to meet Jesus, here the centurion never even leaves his house but sends elders of the Jews to meet Jesus on his behalf.

**Luke 7:6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:**

18. As Jesus approaches the centurion's house, the centurion sends out friends / servants to stop Jesus from coming any closer.
  - a. The centurion is nowhere near Jesus.
19. But wait a minute, in Matthew, there was no "them". What gives?
  - a. Here are the other angles I want you to see.
20. There appears to be a contradiction but the Bible does **NOT** contradict itself!
  - a. So where is the connection?
  - b. And what's my angle?
21. In the day in which this was written, when one man was sent out in the name of another man, it was as if that man had come himself.

22. The Holy Spirit inspired Matthew to say the centurion came himself when he actually sent representatives in his name.

23. In the eyes of God, it's one and the same.

a. But what does that have to do with you?

24. So now we must ask, in whose name have you been sent?

a. The name of Jesus.

**Mark 16:17**      **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

25. So when you speak the Word of God with faith and power on your tongue, it is the same as if Jesus Himself was giving the order.

a. When you lay hands, it's His hands through you.

b. In this case, even for an emergency medical situation.

**Mark 16:17-18 (MSG)**    **[17] "These are some of the signs that will accompany believers: They will throw out demons in my name, they will speak in new tongues, [18] they will take**

**snakes in their hands, they will drink poison and not be hurt, they will lay hands on the sick and make them well."**

26. The name of Jesus is the key.

a. Jesus came in His Father's name and did His Father's work.

**John 13:20**      **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.**

27. When others are ministering to you, they do so as if it was Jesus Himself ministering to you.

a. When you minister to others, it's Jesus doing it through you.

b. That means we should be seeing more results.

28. If Jesus came to your house, would He brag about your faith?

29. Jesus marvelled at the centurion's great faith because he didn't personally have to have a face to face encounter with Jesus. He trusted His Word when His presence was not seen or felt.

**Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

- 30. Faith is a lifestyle.
- 31. Most people do not live from faith to faith, they live from paycheck to paycheck, moment by moment or from person to person.
  - a. If their bank account gets to a certain level, then they panic instead of having peace.
  - b. If the situation worsens, they question instead of quote the Word of God.

32. Let's look at a believer's expected growth cycle.

**Psalm 84:7 They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.**

**Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

**2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

- 33. We are to go from strength to strength, from faith to faith and from glory to glory.
- 34. Strength is built during difficulties. Faith comes by hearing God's Word in the midst of those difficulties. Glory comes when you respond to God's Word in the midst of your difficulties instead of reacting to your situation.
- 35. Jesus is bragging on you because you're still in the game.

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