

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 2

MATTHEW 8:5-13

ALL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, January 22nd at 1pm

Annual business meeting that will cover everything
Planting Roots, our 2017 budget and
where we're headed in 2017

REDEMPTION GROUPS

Begin February 3rd

Learn more and fill out an
application at
ourelement.org/redemption

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO APPLY.

YOUTH WINTER CAMP

Camp: February 17-20th. Sign Up Today!

Fundraiswer: January 29th after service
\$5 Frito boat, first come first served.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

AUTHORITY IN SPOKEN WORDS

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 8:5-13

Luke 7:4-5

Psalms 72:12-13

Mark 6:6

Colossians 1:16

Matthew 28:18-20

January 15, 2017

www.ourelement.org

AUTHORITY

IN SPOKEN WORDS

WEEK 2 SERMON NOTES

In the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 8-9, he shows fourteen distinct ways that Jesus showed His authority. These chapters come directly after the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus speaks and teaches the crowds with authority, so much so that they were amazed. Matthew shows us that it is not only Jesus words that have authority, but also His life in how He responds to every situation with complete confidence and grace.

In this story today we learn of a centurion (a Roman military figure that had at least a hundred soldiers under his own authority), come to Jesus and ask for help. For us, this would be like asking someone you completely disagree, or someone you are sure would not help you, for assistance.

If you had a problem who is the last person you would go to for help?

Who is the least likely person that you think would amaze Jesus in any way?

Jesus' helping of the centurion servant shows that there are no limits to who Jesus came to save. Matthew starts chapter 8 by Jesus revealing His authority, grace, and goodness to people who would be considered on the "outside;" Lepers and Romans. His gospel becomes a very pointed way to show those outside of Jewish culture that the Messiah came to seek and save us all, not just a select group. Jesus saved those who many believed were beyond any hope of redemption.

Read Matthew 8:5-13

How would you define the word "authority?"

In the ancient world the word authority could be understood in various ways depending on your background or the situation you found yourself in:

Privilege

Physical or mental power

Power of rule

Universal power over everything

Which of the previous understandings would you use to describe authority in these circumstances?

A parent

A police officer

A president

Jesus

Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith because he understood that Jesus has universal power over everything. The centurion is one of the few people who see and recognize the authority in Jesus...more so than many people today see and recognize it in Him (even some people who call themselves Christians). It is why Jesus says "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.

How do you think Jesus would describe your faith?

What situations keep you from having faith in Jesus?

The faith Jesus is praising here is the confidence or reliance placed on the object of faith; one theological dictionary says faith "apprehends the facts, it assents to their truth, and it acts accordingly." The centurion had a certain amount of information about Jesus, he accepted that it was true, and he acted in confidence on it.

How does your confidence in Jesus (or lack thereof) get displayed in your life?

We often paint our own picture of redemption, we have an idea of what we want God to do in our lives and if He does not do it, we become resentful. It is essential to realize that faith is not about us, we are not the center of the story, God is. Faith is recognizing that Jesus is good even when He does not heal or save us the way we want.

How can you be a beacon of hope to those around you that don't trust, or don't know about, Jesus' authority?