

Believing Power Inspired by Matthew 8:5-13

Raymond was a captain in the city police department. He was respected by his officers, trusted by the community, and known for handling difficult situations calmly.

One Friday afternoon, however, Raymond sat in his office looking worried.

His administrative assistant, Ben, who had worked with him for years, was in the hospital with a serious illness. The doctors were doing everything they could, but Ben's condition was getting worse.

Raymond stared at his phone, feeling helpless.

"I can coordinate emergency teams, manage hundred-person operations, and solve crises," he muttered. "But I can't help the one person who needs me most."

Just then, there was a knock at the door.

"Come in."

His longtime friend Terry stepped inside.

Terry was known among his friends as a strong believer in Jesus. Whenever people faced challenges, Terry encouraged them to trust God.

"Raymond," Terry said, taking a seat, "you look like you're carrying the weight of the world."

Raymond sighed.

"It's Ben. The doctors don't have many answers. I wish there was something more I could do."

Terry nodded sympathetically.

"I've been praying for him."

Raymond looked up.

"You really believe prayer can make a difference, don't you?"

"Absolutely," Terry replied. "I believe Jesus still hears people today."

Raymond leaned back in his chair.

"I've heard you say that before. Honestly, I've never understood how someone can have that much faith."

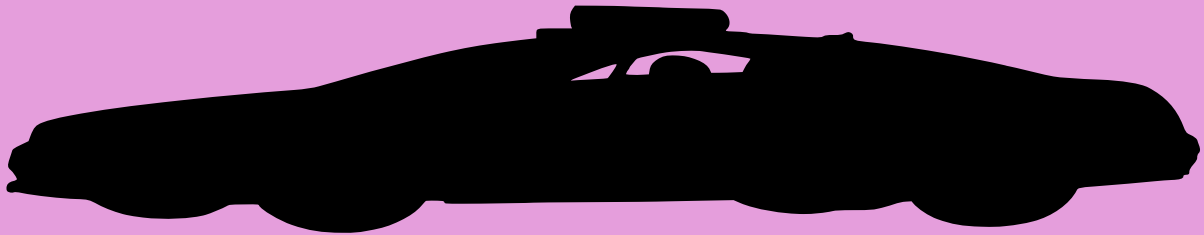
Terry smiled.

"Faith isn't about understanding everything. It's about trusting Jesus' authority."

"Authority?" Raymond asked.

"Yes. Just as your officers follow your commands because of your position, Jesus has authority over every situation."

Those words stayed with Raymond.



That evening, Terry invited Raymond to a community prayer gathering at a local church.

At first Raymond hesitated.

"I don't really belong there."

"You don't have to belong," Terry said. "Just come."

Finally, Raymond agreed.

The pastor spoke about Jesus healing people and helping those who trusted Him.

As Raymond listened, thoughts of Ben filled his mind.

After the service, Terry asked, "Would you like us to pray for him?"

Raymond nodded.

A small group gathered around.

Terry prayed, "Lord Jesus, you know Ben's condition. We ask You to heal him and give peace to everyone involved."

As they prayed, Raymond felt something he hadn't felt in weeks...a sense of hope.



The next morning Raymond visited the hospital.

Ben was resting, and several nurses were checking his charts.

Suddenly one of the doctors entered with a surprised expression.

"Captain Raymond," he said, "I was hoping to see you."

Raymond's heart raced.

"What's happened?"

The doctor smiled.

"His latest tests show unexpected improvement. The inflammation has dropped dramatically overnight."

"Really?"

"Honestly, it's better than we anticipated."

Raymond looked at Ben, who was awake and smiling weakly.

"Looks like I'm not getting rid of you that easily, Captain," Ben joked.

For the first time in days, Raymond laughed.

Later that afternoon, Raymond met Terry at a coffee shop.

"You were right," Raymond said.

Terry raised an eyebrow.

"About what?"

"About Jesus."

Terry smiled. "Tell me."

Raymond leaned forward.

"I've spent my entire career understanding authority. Officers follow me because of the authority behind my badge. Yesterday, I realized something."

"What was that?"

"If Jesus truly has authority from God, then He doesn't need to be physically present to help someone. He can simply speak, and things change."

Terry's eyes lit up.

"You sound a lot like the centurion in the Bible."

"The Roman officer?" Raymond asked.

Terry nodded.

"He told Jesus, 'Just say the word, and my servant will be healed.' He understood authority."

Raymond sat quietly for a moment.

"I think I understand now."

"You do?"

"Yes. Faith isn't pretending problems don't exist. Faith is believing Jesus is greater than the problem."

Terry smiled.

"Exactly."



Over the next few weeks, Ben continued to recover.

Whenever people asked Raymond what gave him hope during that difficult time, he shared what he had learned.

One day, a young officer facing family problems came to him for advice.

"Captain, how do you stay strong when things seem impossible?"

Raymond thought for a moment.

Then he answered, "There was a time when I believed I had to solve everything myself. But I learned that some situations are bigger than us."

"What do you do then?"

Raymond smiled.

"You trust the One who has authority over everything."

The officer nodded.

"Jesus?"

"Jesus," Raymond replied.

Across the room, Terry overheard and smiled.

Raymond had become much like the believing centurion, not because he had all the answers, but because he had learned to trust completely in the authority of Christ.

Moving A HEADD

True faith recognizes that Jesus has authority over every circumstance. Like the centurion in Matthew 8:5-13, we honor God when we trust God's power and believe God's word, even when we cannot see what God is doing.