

Week 8  
November 9, 2008

**The Kingdom from East and West**  
**Global Nature of the Kingdom**  
*Matthew 8:5-13*

**The Context**

The Sermon on the Mount  
The phenomenon of crowds  
The secret that's hard to keep  
The cost of following

**An International Encounter**

The Roman occupation  
The Centurion's dilemma  
Jesus' first offer  
An extraordinary humility  
An extraordinary faith

**The Truth About the Wider World**

Sometimes those closest are farthest  
Sometimes those farthest are closest  
Many will come from east and west

**The Abrahamic Covenant Fulfilled**

A chosen people (Genesis 12)  
A specific purpose  
Blessed to be a blessing  
The centurion as prototype  
The Isaiah prophecy (Matthew 12:18, Isaiah 42:1-4)  
The Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21-28)  
Jesus comes again; the nations mourn (Matthew 24:30)  
Jesus' cosmic authority (Matthew 26:64, John 18:36, 19:11)

**Practical Implications**

Our call to the nations  
Worthy respect and regard  
The problems with our hesitation  
The American myth  
When in Rome ...  
If it's all true ...

### **Other scriptures**

Matthew 7:28 ... *the crowds were amazed at his teaching because he taught as one who had authority ...*  
John 6:26 *You follow not because you saw miraculous signs, but because you ate the bread and got your fill.*  
John 6:66 *From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.*  
Matthew 26-28 The nature of Roman governance  
Luke 18:8 ... *when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?*  
Romans 5:1 ... *we have been justified by faith ...*  
2 Corinthians 5:7 *We live by faith, not by sight.*  
Galatians 2:20 *I live by faith in the Son of God ...*  
Colossians 1:23 ... *continue in your faith ...*  
Philemon 1:6 ... *that you may be active in sharing your faith ...*  
Acts 1:8 ... *witnesses ... to the ends of the earth.*  
Matthew 24:14 ... *this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to the whole world ...*  
Matthew 28:18 *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*  
Matthew 28:19 *Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations ...*  
Acts 17:16-34 Paul in Athens  
Luke 9:26 *If anyone is ashamed of my words ...*  
Romans 1:16 *I am not ashamed of the gospel ... first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*  
2 Timothy 1:7 ... *God did not give us a spirit of timidity ...*  
2 Timothy 1:8 ... *so do not be ashamed to testify ...*

### **Recommended reading:**

*Christianity for Modern Pagans: Pascal's Pensees* by Peter Kreeft and Blaise Pascal  
*Personal Thoughts of a Public Man*, by Billy Graham with David Frost