

# Obvious Obscurities

## *What God Sees and What It Means*

**Text: Matthew 8:5-10**

### **Introduction:**

1. One of the most interesting and challenging studies associated with Jesus' ministry is what can be called "*Obvious Obscurities.*"
2. Things that Jesus saw as being quite obvious were either obscure or unknown to others.
3. There are rich lessons found in such things to sharpen our spiritual perceptions.
4. When we have a "*healthy eye*" in the world of spiritual values we are full of light; but if we have a "*bad eye*" for such, we dwell in a darkness that is great indeed (**Matthew 6:22-23; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16!**)

### **I. A Centurion Who Understood *Authority*—Matthew 8:5-10.**

- A. **Reverence** evidenced in addressing Jesus as "*lord*" or "*sir*" (**v.6**).
- B. **Humility** seen in stating his unworthiness to have Jesus come to his house (**v.8**).
- C. **Concern for another** (**v.6**).
- D. **Faith** as the ever-needed quality (**v. 10; Hebrews 11:6**).

### **II. An Afflicted Woman Who Appreciated *Power*—Mark 5:25-34.**

- A. **Humility** present in her attitude of "*if I may...*" (**v. 28**).
- B. **Reverence** seen in her "fear and trembling" (**v. 33**).
- C. An **uneasiness** over a purely **personal concern** (**vv. 25-28**).
- D. **Faith**, the key to her actions (**v.34**).

### **III. A Canaanite Woman Who *Refused* The Way Of *Selfish Pride*—Matthew 15:21-28.**

- A. **Reverence** voiced in her address of Jesus as “*Lord, Son of David,*” and as she bowed before the Lord (**vv. 22, 25**).
- B. A **deep humility** that **defeated pride** as she refused to be insulted by lesser, merely selfish concerns (**vv. 23-26**).
- C. **Concern for another** (**v. 22**).
- D. A great **faith** (**v.28**)!

**IV. A Widow Who Gave All That She Had—Mark 12:41-44.**

- A. **Reverence** for God’s concern for others (**v. 42**).
- B. **Humility** in her quiet offering (**vv. 41-42; Matthew 6:2-4**).
- C. **Concern for others** (**v. 42**).
- D. A **faith** that trusted that God would provide (**v. 43-44**).

**Conclusion:**

1. Self-importance, Self-assertion, Pride, and Selfishness were replaced by:
  - a. *respectful Submission*
  - b. *modest Humility*
  - c. *pride-defeating*
  - d. *concern for others,*
  - e. *and an amazing selflessness*
  - f. *all made possible through Faith.*
2. In a world that seeks to redefine religion into a very visible, self-serving showtime production, we would do well to remember what gets the Lord’s attention.
3. The “*Obvious Obscurities*” of: **Reverence, Humility, Concern For Others,** and **Selflessness**—all driven by **Faith**, are the values whose quiet work Jesus will praise.