

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“Amazing Faith”

Luke 7:1-10

May 1, 2022

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- Jesus finishes His teaching.
- The people heard and are now accountable for what they heard.
- He goes to nearby Capernaum.
- 11 of the 33 miracles that Jesus did that are recorded in Scripture were done in Capernaum. Only two were done for Gentiles. Luke 7:1-10 was one of them.
- Up until this point, Jesus has dealt exclusively with the Jews; here he begins to include the Gentiles.





Seleucia •

Trazin

Bethsaida

Gamla

Capernaum

Gennesaret •

Jotapata

• Cana

Magdala •

SEA OF GALILEE

Tiberias

Hippius

Sepphoris

Gath-hepher

Nazareth

+ Mount Tabor

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- “Centurion”:
 1. A Roman soldier who was in command of 100 soldier.

STRUCTURE OF THE ROMAN ARMY

Roman legion = 6000 men.

Roman legion was divided into cohorts.

Each cohort had 600 soldiers.

Ten cohorts in each legion.

The cohort was divided into centuries.

2 And a centurion's slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die.

• **“Centurion”:**

1. A Roman soldier who was in command of 100 soldier.
2. Non-commissioned officer.
3. Rugged and battle tested. Disciplined. “A man’s man.”
4. Hated Israel and Israel hated him. He was a Gentile.
5. Centurions received double the salary of ordinary soldiers.
6. It usually took fifteen years or more of military service to work one's way to the rank of centurion.
7. Centurions were the backbone of the Roman army, in charge of discipline.
8. Had direct contact with his men.
9. Top leader were dependent on centurions.
10. Every time a centurion is mentioned in the New Testament it is with honor.

1. There was the centurion who had great faith in the power of Jesus (Mt. 8:5).
2. There was the centurion who recognized Jesus hanging on the cross as the Son of God (Mt. 27:54).
3. There was the centurion, Cornelius, who was the first Gentile convert to the Christian church (Acts 10:22).
4. There was the centurion who recognized that Paul was a Roman citizen and rescued him from the rioting mob (Acts 23:17–23).
5. There was the centurion who took steps to deliver Paul from being murdered after being informed of the Jews' plan (Acts 24:23).
6. There was the centurion whom Felix ordered to escort and look after Paul (Acts 24:23).
7. There was the centurion who escorted Paul on his last journey to Rome. He treated Paul with great courtesy and accepted him as the leader when the storm struck the ship (Acts 27:43).





2 And a centurion's slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die.

- So here is a man who Luke chooses to illustrate the Sermon on the mount. But how is this going to work? He is a Gentile, a roman soldier, rough, tough, inflexible, prideful. Just the opposite of what Jesus taught.
- Actually this centurion is a perfect example.

Let's look at 4 remarkable qualities of this man that describe a true disciple –

1. How the centurion treated his slave.

“slave” – δουλος – slave, servant, to be owned by someone.

1. Slaves were merely chattel, property that could be easily discarded.
2. If a slave was weak or sick, it was common to just let them die. Find another one.
3. Young boys would be assigned as slaves to military men.

2 And a centurion's slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die.

- But look what it says – the slave was “highly regarded” by the centurion. Great value, precious.

“sick” – paralyzed.

Matt 8:6

6 and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented."

- The young boy is about to die. Rome would have said “so what, let him die. If he is unable to work, what good is he? We will replace him.”

This is remarkable!

The centurion actually values his slave. That just isn't normal. Jesus taught in the S.O.T.M. to show mercy, to love, to be gracious, to be compassionate.

This guy is the opposite of what you would expect.

Are you different from what people expect?

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3 *When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him to come and save the life of his slave.*

2. *The centurion's relationship to the Jews.*

- When he hears Jesus is in town . . .
 - Obviously Jesus meant something to him. Word had spread. Not just the healings Jesus was performing but His claim to be the Messiah.
- The centurion talks to the Jewish leaders.
- How can this be? A Roman soldier asking a favor from the Jews?
- This is unheard of. Why?
 1. He is a Gentile.
 2. He is a Roman soldier.
 3. He is a Roman occupier of Israel.
- Why didn't he just go and ask Jesus himself? He felt unworthy to approach the Messiah.
- But will the Jewish elders obey this man who is hated by the Jews?

This is remarkable!

The centurion actually has a loving, friendly relationship with the Jews. That just isn't normal.

Jesus taught in the S.O.T.M. to love your enemies, to do good for them, to pray for them.

This guy moves beyond the hate and prejudice that the Jews have toward him.

Do you display love toward those who despise you, maybe even hate you?

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3. *The Jews relationship to the centurion.*

- Here are the Jews going to Jesus on behalf of a Roman Gentile.
 - That's like Mitch McConnell asking Chuck Schumer to go to President Biden to get a GOP bill passed.
 - That's like the Vikings asking the Packers to give them their best player.
- **Note:** This is not some half-hearted attempt.
- Their reasoning though is wrong:
 1. No person is worthy of anything.
 2. Because he is a Roman centurion, does not make him worthy. Jesus couldn't care less about rank or status.
 3. Because he loves Israel and contributed a large sum of money to build their synagogue, does not make him worthy.
 4. This is works-righteousness. You don't earn your worthiness. Christ is worthy and it is on His worthiness that we stand.

4 When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, "He is worthy for You to grant this to him;

5 for he loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue."

- Loving the nation and building a synagogue are indicators that he had been changed by the working of the Spirit of God in his heart.
- To love Israel is to understand the place of Israel in the plan of God regarding their covenants and promises.
- He obviously was wealthy to be able to build a synagogue, which shows as well he is a generous person.
- He wanted a place built to worship and honor God through the teaching of the Scriptures.
- He was a God-fearer.

This is remarkable!

The Jews, who despise the Roman government, are begging Jesus on behalf of a Roman officer.

Jesus taught in the S.O.T.M. that you are to treat others the way you want them to treat you. The centurion displayed that toward the Jews and the Jews blessed him as a result.

How do you treat others? Are you loving kind, generous?

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4. The centurion's humility.

- Now the centurion sends his friends to stop Jesus before He enters his house.
- Jewish law forbids a Jew to enter the house of a Gentile –

Acts 10:28

28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him;

- But that is not the reason. His estimation of himself was that he was not worthy to be in the same house as Jesus.
- This shows great humility.

- This is the heart of the believer.
- This is amazing faith.

This is remarkable!

The centurion had a heart of humility and deep understanding of the omnipotence and omnipresence of Jesus and that Jesus did not have to be personally present for his servant to be healed.

Jesus taught in the S.O.T.M. "Blessed are the poor in spirit." These are the ones who see nothing worthy in themselves. They have nothing to offer - "bankrupt." They throw themselves at the mercy of God asking for His grace.

Do you walk in humility, understanding your unworthiness?

Do you walk confident in the ability of Christ?

****False humility** says, "I can do nothing" and stops there.

True humility adds, "But I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13)

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:6-7)

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- The centurion knew what it meant to speak with authority.
- He knew that one with authority simply has to say the word and it is done.
- Obviously he believed the power in the words Jesus spoke. He knew about creation ("then God said,")

Col 1:16

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth,

Rom 10:17

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

This is remarkable!

The centurion knew Jesus had authority, power, and sovereignty.

Do you know His authority, power, and sovereignty in your life?

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- Jesus marveled at the centurion's amazing faith.
- There were a few in Israel who had faith but not like this.
- Israel is so entangled in its web of laws , rules, and regulations that they have totally missed the simplicity of living by faith.
- Where are the true disciples in Israel?
- Where are those in Israel who are living the life and qualities of the sermon on the mount?
- Where are those in Israel who have obeyed the gospel and have built there lives on the Rock, Jesus Christ?
- Where are those in Israel that can withstand the storms of life like the centurion?

Matt 8:10-13

10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.

11 "I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;

12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Does your faith and confidence in the Lord amaze Him? Is your faith great or small? How confident are you in the Lord's ability to meet your needs and solve the problems in your life?" Beloved, God wants us to learn to rely upon Him just as this Roman soldier. Realize that every crisis you face is an opportunity to trust in God. Storms may rage in your life like the temper tantrums of a tempestuous sea. Christ, however, has the power and ability to calm your storm, or to help you sail through it."

- Ligon Duncan

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- As impressed Dr. Luke must have been with the healing, it is almost a side note here.
- The focus here is on the “amazing faith” of the centurion.
- What a joyous ending to this remarkable story of the centurion.

The Lord is looking for true disciples like this centurion:

1. Who love and have compassion on others, including those who are hurting with sickness and are without hope. They must also love others that hate or despise them.
2. Who have an exalted view of Christ. They know the Lord Jesus is the authority. He is sovereign over all.
3. Who have a lowly view of themselves. They are unworthy and insufficient, but they also know that Christ as all-sufficient.
4. Who are generous and willing to share their resources to see God's Word taught and proclaimed.