

NOTES: A CENTURION'S FAITH

Pastor Mark Colton - October 20, 2013

READ COMBINED Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10

⁵ Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. ³ So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, ⁵ "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

This was NO ORDINARY CENTURION:

- Compassionate ("DEAR TO HIM")
- Loved the Jewish people
- Built a synagogue with his own money
- Devout (having or showing deep religious feeling or commitment)

Question: How did the centurion come to know about Jesus?

READ Luke 4:31-37

³¹ Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. ³² And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. ³³ Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him in *their* midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him.

³⁶ Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this *is!* For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." ³⁷ And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

It's very unlikely that the centurion heard about the event or was in the synagogue that day.

What would get the attention of a centurion?

- Someone with power and authority

It's not outside the realm of possibility that the centurion came to faith in Jesus at this time. Why?

Romans 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Not only by hearing but also by SEEING the demonstration of Jesus' authority power over the demonic.

NOTE: The demons acknowledge Jesus as the "HOLY ONE OF GOD". A centurion would pick up on this and realize the connection.

⁶ Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. ⁷ Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

The centurion addresses Jesus as "LORD" (Greek word for LORD: "Kurie")

Kurie (κύριε)

Word origin: *kýrios*

- a person exercising *absolute ownership rights*
- a title of honor, respect and reverence,
- used when servants saluted their master

"Used in prayer to God" (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

Then the centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

⁷ And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

⁸ The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

No matter what situation you face, Jesus desires to heal you!

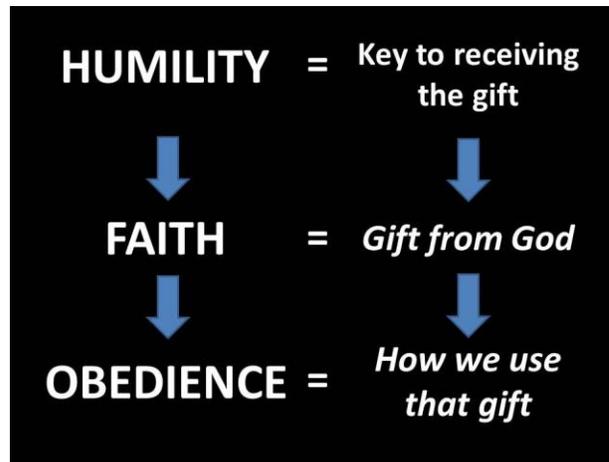
¹⁰ When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "**Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!**" ¹¹ And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have **believed**, so let it be done for you."

Faith is always a *gift from God*, and *never* something that can be produced by people.

‘believed’ (Greek word: **episteusas**)

- to trust, with an implication that actions based on that trust may follow
 - In other words... OBEDIENCE
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How are HUMILITY, FAITH and OBEDIENCE related?



**God will sometimes allow us to get into situations to humble us... Why?
In order to increase our faith**

OBSERVATIONS

- *Christ desires to meet you where you're at.*
- *As we draw near to Christ; He draws near to us.*
- *A lack of humility (pride) can keep us from receiving our healing.*
- *Believing is not a mental exercise, it's a matter of trusting and obeying God and putting faith into action*
- *No situation is impossible for our God.*