

## NOTES: A CENTURION'S FAITH

Pastor Mark Colton - October 20, 2013

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

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

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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

<sup>31</sup> Then He went down to **Capernaum**, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. <sup>32</sup> And they were astonished at His teaching, for **His word was with authority**. <sup>33</sup> Now in the **synagogue** there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup> 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!**"

<sup>35</sup> 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.

<sup>36</sup> 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.**" <sup>37</sup> 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.

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<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>8</sup> 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*."

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

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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)

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

<sup>7</sup> And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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*."

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

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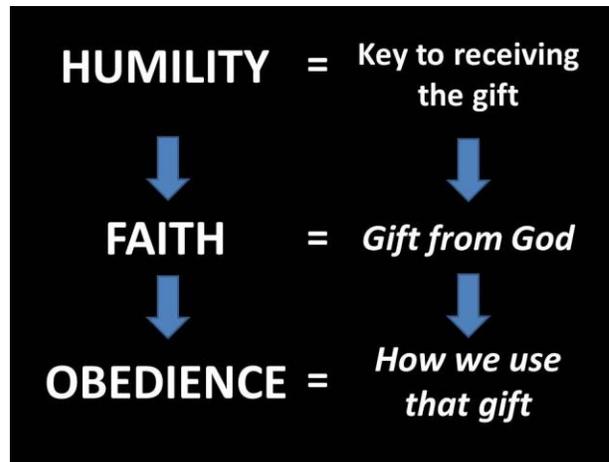
<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "**Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!**" <sup>11</sup> And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of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