

The Amazing Faith of the Centurion

Matthew 8:5-13



Bible Reading

Matthew 8:5-9

5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly." 7 Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?" 8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ...



Bible Reading

Matthew 8:10-13

10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. 11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.



Background Teaching

Verse 5

Capernaum was a small town on the north western shore of the Sea of Galilee. Known for agriculture, fishing, its Roman army garrison and was a base for Jesus in His early ministry.

A Centurion was a career soldier in the Roman army. In charge of 100 men. Kept the peace, executed orders for Rome, oversaw crucifixions.



Background Teaching

Verses 6-7

The Centurion approaches Jesus for help. Jesus questioned him – Shall I come and heal him?

It was very unusual for a Centurion to ask for help outside of Rome. Rome was very powerful and self sufficient.



Background Teaching

Verses 8-9

The centurion again addresses Jesus with the title “Lord”, but this time it is about feeling unworthy to have Jesus in his home. Like John the Baptiste, unworthy to baptize Jesus.

The Centurion’s words – “just say the word” – shows he understands the Roman military system and the chain of command.



Background Teaching

Verse 10

Jesus is astonished at the faith of the centurion and he commended the man's faith. The greatness of his faith was shown in two ways.

1. that he believed Jesus could heal from a distance; and
2. that he understood Jesus' authority was from the throne room of Heaven.



Background Teaching

Verses 11-12

Jesus then talks about the great feast in heaven. This comes from Isaiah 25:6-9. “On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples...”

Jesus here says that many Gentiles will come from the four points of the compass. This is not what many Jews believed.

The words “subjects of the kingdom” – this is talking about the Jews.



Background Teaching

Verse 13

Jesus performed a miracle, not because the Centurion had a vain hope that Jesus might or could heal him – he knew Jesus would do it and could do it if He just said the word. He believed.



Background Teaching

Summary

In this passage we see that the Centurion stepped out of Rome to come to Jesus. He understood Jesus' authority was from Heaven.

We also saw that he had the greatest faith Jesus had seen in all of Israel and the Great Feast would be for all peoples.



Application Points

1. We need to our problems to
Jesus



Application Points

2. We need to understand the power and authority of Jesus



Application Points

3. We need to see that salvation is for everyone and we need to be bridge builders to Him.



Summary

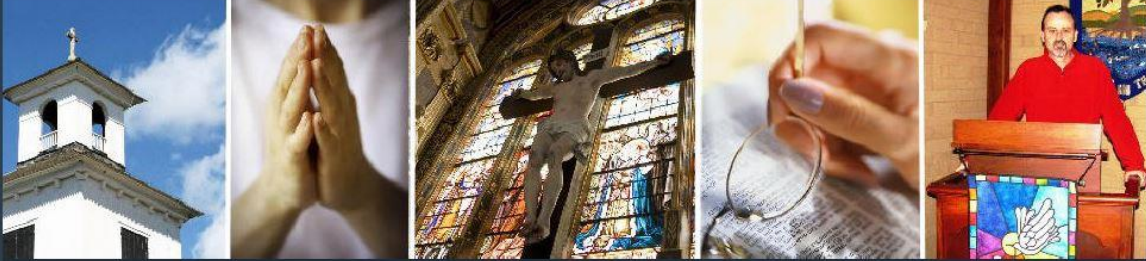
So today as we finish this message. I want to leave you with these four things...

1. Like the Centurion we need to bring our problems to Jesus.
2. The Centurion understood the power and authority of Jesus. We need to also.
3. The story of the Centurion shows that salvation is for all who come to Jesus. We need to bridge builders.



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