

Second Circuit

Healing of the Centurion's Servant

Matthew 8:5-13

Luke 7:1-10

Fame of Jesus

Texts:

Matthew 8:5-13,

- 5. When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.**
- 6. “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.”**
- 7. Jesus said to him, “I will go 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.”**
- 10. When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, “I tell you the truth, 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! It will be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that very hour.**

Luke 7:1-10,

- 1. When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum.**

- 2. There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die.**
- 3. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant.**
- 4. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this,**
- 5. because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue."**
- 6. So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.**
- 7. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.**
- 8. 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."**
- 9. When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."**
- 10. Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.**

Commentary:

I. When Jesus entered Capernaum, a Centurian, a Roman army officer who commanded 100 soldiers, came to Jesus through representatives beseeching/begging Jesus for a favor.

II. Other Centurians mentioned in the New Testament include the following:

A. Matthew 27:54, When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had

happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

B. Acts 21:32, He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

C. Acts 22:25, As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, “Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn’t even been found guilty?”

D. Acts 10:1, At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment.

E. Acts 27:3, 43, The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs. But the centurion wanted to spare Paul’s life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land.

F. Acts 23:17, 18, Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him.” So he took him to the commander. The centurion said, “Paul, the prisoner, sent for me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you.”

G. Acts 23:23, Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, “Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight.

III. Capernaum was located in Galilee adjacent to the Sea of Galilee and was Jesus' place of residence for a time. He lived with his followers.

IV. The Centurian presented to Jesus the needs of his servant/slave who was sick with palsy, grievously tormented, and at the point of death.

V. Jesus said he would go to where the servant was and heal him.

VI. The Centurian was a man of faith and humility.

A. The Centurian told Jesus he was unworthy for the Lord to visit his home.

B. The Centurian, a man well acquainted with authority and the right to command, knew that Jesus also needed only to command in order for his servant to be healed.

1. How did this Centurian come to believe this?

VII. Jesus marveled at the faith of this Gentile Centurian which was greater than any faith he had found among the Jews he had met.

A. Jesus here stated that Gentiles from the east and west would be citizens of the kingdom of heaven along with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

B. God's grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9) to save to the uttermost.

C. Many of those who were first in line to be saved, the Jews, would find themselves lost, in outer darkness, weeping and gnashing their teeth.

D. When God casts the wicked into hell wonder how many protestors will be marching and shouting?

VIII. Many of those who were expected to be saved (the Jews) were going to be cast into hell. Many of those who were expected to be lost (the Gentiles) were going to be saved in heaven.

A. Romans 11:17-24, If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

IX. Jesus said to the Centurian that his request in regard to his servant had been granted.

A. Blessings were bestowed upon this servant in keeping with the faith of the Centurian.

B. In keeping with the extent of our faith, great or small, Jesus will do for us!

X. Centurians mentioned in the New Testament were honorable men. Not one was told he had to resign from the army in order to be a faithful follower of Christ.

XI. Numerous wonders were performed by Jesus in Capernaum and the Centurian could not have avoided becoming knowledgeable of the miracles of Jesus.

A. Matthew 11:23, And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.

XII. The Jews petitioned Jesus on behalf of this Gentile Centurian who was said to have loved the Jewish nation and had built a synagogue for the Jewish community.

XIII. Jesus went with these Jews, but when they drew near the Centurian's home, other friends of the Centurian met Jesus and conveyed his humility, feeling unworthy to personally go to Jesus with his request or to have Jesus come into his house.

XIV. The Centurian knew the power of the command, the authoritative word.

A. Psalm 148:5, Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

XV. Messengers from the Centurian returned and found the servant not just better but instantaneously completely healed.

XVI. Jesus sometimes marveled both in regard to belief and unbelief.

A. **Mark 6:6, And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.**

B. **Luke 7:9, 10, When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”**

Healing the Centurian's Servant

Questions

1. A _____ came to Jesus while he was in _____ asking for _____ for his _____ who was _____ and in _____ at home. He was _____ to _____.

2. This _____ had greater _____ than anyone in _____ because he believed Jesus could just speak the _____ and his _____ would be _____. This _____ was evidently a _____.

3. Jesus said to the _____, "Go! It will be done just as you have _____ it would." His _____ was _____ at that very _____.

4. Elders of the Jews asked Jesus to help this _____'s _____ because the _____ " . . . loves our _____ and has _____ our _____."

5. Discuss five other New Testament references to Centurians showing they were often honorable men. _____
