
The Healing Of The Centurion's Servant

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Only **Matthew** and **Luke** record this particular miracle that involves a “*servant*” of a “*centurion*” A “*centurion*” was “a Roman soldier in charge of 100 soldiers” This “*centurion*” was a **Roman** officer, and this particular “*centurion*” was in charge of the **Roman** garrison in “*Capernaum*” (**Matthew 8:5; Luke 7:1**). **Luke** in his account records that this “*centurion*” had a “*servant*” who was “*dear unto him*” (**7:2**). This “*servant*” was **loved, cherished** and highly **esteemed** and **respected** by the “*centurion*” In the process of time this “*servant*” became ill, and **Jesus** healed him, without seeing him, without going to him, and without the “*servant*” coming to Him. **Jesus** heals this man without giving him any instruction or command, **THIS MAN IS HEALED AND SPARED WITH A WORD FROM A DISTANCE!**

I. THE CONDITION OF THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

① **This Servant Was Sick With Palsy:**

Both **Matthew** and **Luke** record that this man was “*sick*” (**Matthew 8:6; Luke 7:2**), that is, he is in a **weakened** condition, he was **unwell** and doing **poorly**. **Matthew** records that the cause of this “*servant's*” sickness was “*the palsy*” (**8:6**). This “*servant*” had some form of **paralysis!** That is, there was the loss or reduction of motion in some part or parts of his body, due to some nerve related disorder. **Matthew** also records that this “*palsy*” caused this “*servant*” to be homebound; “*my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy*” (**8:6**).

② **This Servant Was Suffering Greatly:**

Matthew records that he was “*grievously tormented*” (**8:6**). The word “*tormented*” refers to this man's **suffering**, and conveys the idea of “*agony, torture, pain, anguish, and trauma*” This “*servant*” without a doubt was in distress and misery! The word “*grievously*” refers to the **degree** of this man's suffering, and conveys the idea of that which “*is severe, grave, dreadful, terrible, awful, and crushing*”

③ **This Servant Was Near Death:**

Luke in his account says that he “*was sick and ready to die*” (**7:2**). This “*servant*” was so “*sick of the palsy*” that **HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF DEATH!** This man's condition was very **critical**, and very **dire**, **HIS NEED WAS VERY URGENT AND PRESSING!**

II. THE EXAMPLE OF THE CENTURION

Though **Matthew** records that *“there came unto him (Jesus), a centurion” (verse 5)*, it is obvious from **Luke’s** account that others approached **Christ** in the centurion’s name, and representing him (**7:3, 6**).

① **What The Elders Of The Jews Thought Of The Centurion:**

These who approached **Christ** on the behalf of the *“centurion”* thought very highly of this **Roman “centurion”** for when they came to **Christ**, they immediately pleaded what they saw to be the merit of this *“centurion”*

○ *The Elders Loved This Centurion:*

This is seen from the fact that they besought **Christ** on the centurion’s behalf (**Luke 7:4**).

○ *They Thought Him Worthy Of The Lord’s Blessing (Luce 7:4).*

○ *They Looked Upon Him As A Man Of Love:*

“For he loveth our nation” (Luce 7:5). He was a man who had exemplified compassion, care, concern, friendship, kindness, and unselfishness!

○ *They Looked Upon Him As A Man Of Generosity:*

They said *“he hath built us a synagogue” (Luce 7:5)*. This *“centurion”* was a **Gentile** by birth. This is manifest from the **Lord’s** expression *“I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel” (Luce 7:9)*. Though he was a **Gentile**, he did not despise the **Jews** as other **Gentiles** did, but was very benevolent to them!

② **What The Centurion Thought Of Himself:**

As **Christ** was on his way to the centurion’s house with the **elders**, the *“centurion”* sent friends to **Christ** with these words *“Lord trouble not thyself; for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof. Wherefore neither thought I worthy to come unto thee” (Luce 7:6-7)*. He felt himself *“unworthy” (undeserving, and unfit)* to be in the presence of **Christ**, and this is why he sent the **Jewish elders** and his **friends** on his behalf! He felt himself *“unworthy”* to bring a request before the **Lord!** HE OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT THOSE HE SENT TO BE MORE WORTHY THAN HIMSELF!

③ **The Centurion Had A Very High Regard For Christ:**

The fact that he felt himself *“unworthy”* to enter **Christ’s** presence, and for **Christ** to enter his house, manifests that he had a reverence, and a high esteem for **Christ!** He had an admiration, and a great appreciation for **Christ!** THIS MAN KNEW SOMETHING OF CHRIST!

④ **The Centurion Had A Love And Compassion For His Servant:**

Luke records that this man's "*servant.....was dear unto him*" (**Luke 7:2**). This again, shows something of the character of the "*centurion*" HE WAS A GOOD MASTER! He was considerate of his "*servant*" He had a concern, and care for his "*servant*" and he treated him in such a way as to manifest such!

5 **The Centurion Was A Man Of Great Faith:**

This "*centurion*" had heard of **Jesus**; "*And when he heard of Jesus*" (**Luke 7:3**). Whatever he had heard of **Jesus** caused him to stand so in awe of Him that he felt himself "*unworthy*" Whatever he heard he believed, he was convinced, and persuaded, and this is evidenced from the fact that he sent men to **Christ** on his behalf to plead for a miraculous healing of his "*servant*" FAITH IS ALWAYS EVIDENCED BY WORKS! This "*centurion*" had a faith that was recognized by **Christ** (**Matthew 8:10; Luke 7:9**). From the statements of the "*friends*" that the "*centurion*" sent to **Christ** (**Matthew 8:8-9; Luke 7:7-8**), it is made clear what this "*centurion*" believed concerning **Christ**:

○ He Believed That Christ Could Heal His Servant With A Word:

Matthew records "*but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed*" (**Matthew 8:8**), and **Luke** records "*say in a word, and my servant shall be healed*" This was said with absolute certainty, positiveness, conviction, and assurance! He knew that if **Christ** just spoke the word, that his servant's healing would be inevitable! HE BELIEVED IN THE POWER OF CHRIST'S WILL AND WORD!

○ He Believed That Christ Had Authority And Influence:

This "*centurion*" knew something of authority and influence and the power to exercise such, for he had such as a "*centurion*" (**Matthew 8:9; Luke 7:8**). This "*centurion*" believed that **Christ** had authority, influence, and power over disease!

○ He Believed That Christ Was Compassionate And Merciful Enough To Heal His Servant:

He no doubt had heard of some of the works of **Christ**, and believed that He was a sympathetic Person, a Person of empathy, concern, and love! As a result of what this man believed concerning **Christ**, he made his appeal on the behalf of his "*servant*"

Matthew records "*And his servant was healed (cured and restored), in the selfsame hour*" (**Matthew 8:13**), and **Luke** records that those "*returning to the house, found the servant whole (manifesting the degree of the healing) that had been sick*" (**Luke 7:10**). HE THAT HAD BEEN SICK NEAR UNTO DEATH WAS HEALED ENTIRELY AND COMPLETELY! The sickness was gone! The torment was gone, and the present danger of death was gone! This particular healing miracle manifests the accessibility of **Christ**, and also manifests the importance and power of faith in intercessory prayer!
