

10/5/14

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 50

TITLE: AMAZING FAITH

TEXT: LUKE 7:1-10

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE CENTURIONS WERE THE
BACKBONE OF THE ROMAN ARMY IN CHRIST'S
DAY.

* THE CENTURIONS WERE THE LONG-SERVICE,
REGULAR SOLDIERS OF THE ROMAN ARMY, THE
CAREER SOLDIERS.

** THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
DISCIPLINE OF THE REGIMENT, AND THEY WERE
THE CEMENT WHICH HELD THE ARMY TOGETHER.

*** IN PEACE AND IN WAR ALIKE THE MORALE
OF THE MIGHTY ROMAN ARMY DEPENDED ON
THEM.

(2) IN HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE ROMAN ARMY, A MAN NAMED POLYBIUS DESCRIBED WHAT A CENTURION SHOULD BE:

* HE SAID, "A CENTURION MUST NOT BE SO MUCH A VENTURESOME SEEKER AFTER DANGER BUT A MAN WHO CAN COMMAND, STEADY IN ACTION, AND RELIABLE;

** THEY OUGHT NOT TO BE OVER-ANXIOUS TO RUSH INTO THE FIGHT, BUT WHEN HARD PRESSED, THEY MUST BE READY TO HOLD THEIR **GROUND AND DIE AT THEIR POSTS.**" (END QUOTE)

*** SO THE CENTURIONS WERE RESPONSIBLE, RELIABLE AND THE FINEST MEN IN THE ROMAN ARMY.

(3) NOW CENTURIONS WERE CALLED CENTURIONS BECAUSE THEY HAD COMMAND OVER 100 MEN. OUR ENGLISH WORD CENTURION COMES FROM THE LATIN AND MEANS AN OFFICER COMMANDING A CENTURY (100 MEN.)

* AND IN THE ROMAN ARMY SET-UP, THERE WAS A ROMAN LEGION MADE UP OF 6000 MEN; THE LEGION WAS DIVIDED INTO 60 UNITS, EACH CONTAINING 100 MEN, AND IN COMMAND OF EACH UNIT WAS A CENTURION, AGAIN THESE MEN WERE THE BACKBONE OF THE ROMAN ARMY.

**** NOW IT'S INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL CENTURIONS TALKED ABOUT IN THE N.T. AND EVERYONE OF THEM MENTIONED IS PRESENTED IN A POSITIVE LIGHT, IN AN HONORABLE WAY.**

*** FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WAS THE CENTURION WHO RECOGNIZED JESUS ON THE CROSS AS THE SON OF GOD IN MATTHEW 27:54.

**** THERE WAS CORNELIUS, A CENTURION WHO WAS THE FIRST GENTILE CONVERT TO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ACTS 10.

(4) THERE WAS THE CENTURION WHO WAS INFORMED THAT THE JEWS HAD PLANNED TO MURDER PAUL BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND CAESAREA, AND WHO TOOK STEPS TO FOIL THEIR PLANS IN ACTS 23:17&23.

* THERE WAS THE CENTURION WHOM FELIX ORDERED TO LOOK AFTER PAUL IN ACTS 24:23.

** AND THEN THERE WAS THE CENTURION ACCOMPANYING PAUL ON HIS LAST JOURNEY TO ROME, WHO TREATED HIM WITH EVERY COURTESY, AND ACCEPTED HIM AS A LEADER WHEN A STORM STRUCK THEIR SHIP IN ACTS 27:43.

*** SO ROMAN CENTURIONS, THOUGH NORMALLY HATED BY JEWS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROMAN GOVT. ARE PRESENTED IN A FAVORABLE POSITIVE LIGHT IN THE N.T.

(5) AND THE ONE TALKED ABOUT IN OUR TEXT **TODAY IS NO DIFFERENT. IN FACT WE'LL SEE** THAT THIS CENTURION HAS CHARACTER TRAITS THAT ARE EXEMPLARY, OUTSTANDING.

* HE WAS HUMBLE, HE HAD COMPASSION ON HIS SLAVE WHOM WOULD NORMALLY BE TREATED LIKE DIRT, HE HAD GREAT FAITH IN CHRIST AND HE UNDERSTOOD THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY.

** THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL ABOUT THIS CENTURION THAT MOVED CHRIST TO HEAL HIS SERVANT AND TO MARVEL AT HIS FAITH. THIS MAN HAD AMAZING FAITH!

***** IN LIGHT OF THAT, I'VE TITLED OUR MESSAGE TODAY, "AMAZING FAITH!"**

****** AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT 4**
POINTS. NO. 1 THE PLACE THAT JESUS GOES TO,
CAPERNAUM, V. 1; NO. 2 THE PLIGHT OF THE
CENTURION'S SLAVE, V. 2; NO. 3 THE PLEA BY
THE ELDERS, VV. 3-5; AND NO. 4 THE
PERSPECTIVES, THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE
CENTURION AND THE PERSPECTIVE OF JESUS,
VV. 6-10.

- **AND WITHOUT FURTHER INTRODUCTION, LET'S**
DIG INTO THIS PASSAGE AND START TO LOOK AT
OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE PLACE. LOOK AT
LUKE 7:1 PLEASE.

I. THE PLACE, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW IN LUKE 6:49, THE LAST VERSE IN LUKE
CHAPTER 6, JESUS FINISHED, COMPLETED,
CONCLUDED HIS SERMON ON THE LEVEL.

* AND AFTER PREACHING THIS SERMON, JESUS
WENT TO CAPERNAUM AND THAT CITY
PROVIDED THE GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING FOR THE
EVENTS IN LUKE 7:1-10.

** NOW IF YOU RECALL FROM OUR STUDY IN LUKE, CAPERNAUM WAS THE HEADQUARTERS, **THE HOME BASE FOR CHRIST'S GALILEAN MINISTRY, JESUS' ADOPTED HOMETOWN** ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 4:13.

*** AND THIS CITY WAS LOCATED ON THE NORTHWEST SHORE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE.

**** NOW WITH ITS LOCATION IN MIND, CAPERNAUM WAS THE LARGEST OF THE MANY CITIES SURROUNDING THE LAKE.

1. AND FAR MORE THAN JUST A FISHING VILLAGE, IT WAS THE ECONOMIC CENTER OF GALILEE AND SAT NEAR A MAJOR TRADE ROUTE AND THUS WAS A WEALTHY CITY AND WAS THE HOME OF PETER.

*** AND THAT'S THE PLACE THAT THE CENTURION'S SLAVE WILL BE HEALED AND** WHERE THE CENTURION WILL MANIFEST AMAZING FAITH.

** AND HIS AMAZING CHARACTER WILL START TO BE REVEALED TO US BEGINNING IN V. 2 WHERE WE WILL SEE THE PLIGHT OF HIS SLAVE. **LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE, OUR 2'ND POINT TODAY,** THE PLIGHT.

II. THE PLIGHT, (READ V. 2)

A. NOW THE CENTURION'S CHARACTER TRAIT OF LOVE IS REVEALED HERE IN V. 2, FOR RATHER THAN LOOKING AT HIS SLAVE AS A PIECE OF PROPERTY, AS A VALUABLE TOOL LIKE AN ANIMAL, AS A DISPOSABLE PIECE OF PROPERTY, HE HAD GREAT COMPASSION FOR HIM.

* THIS SLAVE OWNER HIGHLY REGARDED THIS SLAVE WHICH LIT. MEANS HE WAS HELD IN HONOR, PRIZED, PRECIOUS AND RESPECTED. HE LOVED, CARED FOR AND WAS CONCERNED AND LOVED HIS SLAVE.

** AND BECAUSE OF HIS COMPASSION FOR HIS SLAVE, THE CENTURION WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIM WHEN HE WAS SICK AND READY TO DIE.

*** AND BEING READY TO DIE COMMUNICATES THE DEATHWATCH HAD BEGUN, HE WAS ON HIS DEATH BED.

**** AND ALTHOUGH LUKE DID NOT DESCRIBE HIS DISEASE OR SYMPTOMS, MATTHEW IN HIS PARALLEL COMPANION TEXT DOES IN MATTHEW **8:6 WHERE HE NOTED THAT THIS SLAVE, "WAS PARALYZED AND IN SEVERE PAIN."**

1. THUS THE CENTURION'S COMPASSION DROVE HIM IN DESPERATION TO SEEK THE LORD'S HELP, WHICH LEADS TO A PLEA TO JESUS THROUGH SOME STRANGE MEANS, LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE PLEA.

III. THE PLEA, (READ V. 3)

A. NOW THE CENTURION HEARD ABOUT JESUS WHICH MEANS HE HEARD ABOUT THE POWER OF JESUS TO PERFORM MIRACLES AND HEAL.

* FOR IT WAS ALL OVER CAPERNAUM ABOUT **JESUS' TEACHING, HIS** AUTHORITY AND HIS HEALINGS.

** FOR IF YOU GO BACK TO LUKE 4:32 IT SAYS ABOUT JESUS AS HE CAME DOWN TO CAPERNAUM BEFORE THE TIME OF OUR TEXT TODAY, (QUOTE LUKE 4:32).

*** BUT ALSO AT CAPERNAUM, JESUS CAST OUT **A DEMON AT THE SYNAGOGUE, HEALED PETER'S** MOTHER-IN-LAW, AND HEALED A MULTITUDE WITH VARIOUS DISEASES AND CAST OUT MORE DEMONS.

**** SO THE WORD WAS OUT, AND THUS THE CENTURION KNEW HIS SLAVE HAD ONE HOPE AND THAT WAS FOR JESUS TO HEAL HIM.

1. SO THE CENTURION WILL GO TO EXTRA-ORDINARY LENGTHS TO SAVE THE LIFE OF HIS SLAVE AND SENDS THE JEWISH ELDERS TO JESUS TO ASK HIM TO COME AND SAVE THE LIFE OF HIS SLAVE.

* AND A COUPLE OF THINGS TO NOTE BEFORE I **MOVE ON TO V. 4. NO. 1 MATTHEW'S PARALLEL** ACCOUNT IN MATTHEW 8:5 SAYS THAT THE CENTURION HIMSELF FIRST APPROACHED JESUS. IS THIS CONTRADICTORY TO OUR TEXT TODAY?

** WELL, THE OBVIOUS ANSWER IS NO, FOR SCRIPTURE NEVER EVER CONTRADICTS ITSELF.

*** THEREFORE THE EXPLANATION IS THAT IN **THE FIRST CENTURY, DEALING WITH A PERSON'S** MESSENGER OR MESSENGERS LIKE THE JEWISH ELDERS IN OUR TEXT, WAS CONSIDERED THE SAME AS DEALING WITH THE ONE WHOM HAD SENT THEM.

**** FOR EXAMPLE IN JOHN 19:1, IT IS SAID THAT PILATE TOOK JESUS AND SCOURGED HIM, WHICH OF COURSE HE DID, BUT NOT WITH HIS OWN HANDS, BUT THROUGH HIS ATTENDANTS, HIS SERVANTS. BUT IT WAS THE SAME AS PILATE DOING IT FOR HE ORDERED IT IN MARK 15:15, HE HAD JESUS SCOURGED.

2. AND THE IDEA WAS, "HE WHO DOES SOMETHING THROUGH ANOTHER DOES IT ALSO HIMSELF." DEALING WITH A PERSON'S MESSENGERS WAS CONSIDERED THE SAME AS DEALING WITH THE ONE WHO HAD SENT THEM.

* THUS IN DEALING WITH THE JEWISH MESSENGERS, JESUS WAS DEALING WITH THE CENTURION. THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION.

** NO.2 , THAT THE JEWISH ELDERS WOULD CONSENT TO DO THIS FOR A GENTILE CENTURION IS AMAZING. NOW WHY WOULD THEY DO IT?

*** WELL LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 4. NOW THERE WAS NO LOVE BETWEEN THE JEWS AND THEIR FOREIGN OPPRESSORS, THE ROMANS. SO WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS THIS CENTURION THAT HE HAD FRIENDS AMONG THE JEWS?

* FOR IT SAYS WHEN THE JEWISH ELDERS CAME TO JESUS, ALSO ANOTHER STRANGE THING, FOR THE JEWISH HIERARCHY ON THE WHOLE HATED JESUS. SO WHY DID THEY GO?

** WELL, FOR THEIR LOVE AND RESPECT OF THIS CENTURION.

*** FOR NOTICE THEY EARNESTLY IMPLORE **JESUS TO GRANT THE CENTURION'S REQUEST,** THEY PLEAD WITH JESUS, THEY BEG JESUS TO DO THIS AND POINT OUT THAT THIS CENTURION IS WORTHY FOR THIS REQUEST TO BE FULFILLED **FOR THE CENTURION'S SLAVE.**

**** AND ALTHOUGH THE CENTURION DID NOT CONSIDER HIMSELF WORTHY, FOR HE DID NOT GO TO JESUS PERSONALLY BELIEVING THAT HE WAS NOT WORTHY, SHOWING HIS HUMILITY **AND WE'LL SEE FURTHER THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER HIMSELF WORTHY,** THE JEWISH ELDERS DID, WHY?

1. BECAUSE OF WHAT THE CENTURION HAD DONE FOR THEM. LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 5. NOW WHY DO THESE JEWS LOBBY FOR A GENTILE, A HATED ROMAN CENTURION?

* WELL FOR TWO REASONS, THIS GENTILE CENTURION, A ROMAN, LOVED THE JEWS, HE LOVES OUR NATION. AND AS A GENERAL RULE, THE ROMANS ESPECIALLY IN THEIR ARMY, LOOKED DOWN ON JEWS.

** BUT THIS CENTURION WAS PRO-SEMITIC, HE WAS A FRIEND OF ISRAEL.

*** AND NO. 2, HE BUILT THE SYNAGOGUE AT CAPERNAUM WHICH BY THE WAY JESUS SPOKE AT, IN LUKE 4.

**** SO THIS CENTURION WITH HIS OWN MONEY, BUILT THE JEWS A HOUSE FOR WORSHIP.

1. HE FINANCED ITS CONSTRUCTION, FOR BY THE WAY, ROMAN CENTURIONS WERE WELL PAID, EARNING ACCORDING TO DARRELL BOCK BETWEEN 3,750 AND 7,500 DENARII A YEAR IN CONTRAST TO THE LOWEST PAID SOLDIERS WHO EARNED A MERE 75 DENARII A YEAR.

* AND IT APPEARS THIS CENTURION WAS A GOD-FEARING GENTILE MUCH LIKE CORNELIUS IN ACTS 10:1&2.

** AND IT ALSO APPEARS FROM WHAT WE WILL SEE IN THE VERSES THAT FOLLOW, THAT THE MAN HEARD AND BELIEVED THE TRUTH THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS THE MESSIAH, SAVIOR AND LORD.

*** FOR WE WILL SEE THAT THIS GENTILE HAS PROPER PERSPECTIVE, LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE **WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR 4TH** POINT TODAY, THE PERSPECTIVES, STARTING WITH THE CENTURIONS.

IV. THE PERSPECTIVES, (READ V. 6)

A. NOW ONE OF THE MARKS OF A TRUE FOLLOWER OF JESUS IS THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPIRITUAL BANKRUPTCY AND HUMILITY, PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

*** FOR THE CENTURION'S VIEW OF HIMSELF WAS TOTALLY AND RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE JEWISH ELDERS.**

**** FOR AFTER AGREEING TO HEAL THE CENTURION'S SLAVE ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 8:7, THE COMPANION PARALLEL TEXT, JESUS STARTED ON HIS WAY WITH THE JEWISH ELDERS TO GO TO THIS MAN'S HOME TO HEAL HIS SLAVE.**

***** AND WHEN JESUS IS NOT FAR FROM HIS HOUSE, THIS CENTURION SENDS OUT A DELEGATION OF SOME OF HIS FRIENDS AND SAYS, LORD, DON'T COME, FOR I AM NOT WORTHY FOR YOU TO COME UNDER MY ROOF.**

**** IN OTHER WORDS, ALTHOUGH THE JEWS SAW THE CENTURION AS WORTHY, HE HIMSELF SAW HIS UNWORTHINESS.

1. FOR AS TIME PASSES FROM HIS FIRST REQUEST TO COME, HE HAD INCREASINGLY BECOME CONVICTED OF HIS UTTER SINFULNESS AND FELT UNWORTHY TO HAVE JESUS ENTER HIS HOUSE.

* AND UNLIKE THE PROUD, SELF-RIGHTEOUS JEWISH ELDERS, THE CENTURION WAS TOO ASHAMED OF HIMSELF AND HIS UTTER SINFULNESS **TO BE IN JESUS' PRESENCE, JUST** LIKE THE TAX COLLECTOR IN LUKE 18:10-14, WHOM ALSO HAD PROPER PERSPECTIVE. (QUOTE THEM).

** NOW THE PUBLICAN SAW HIS UNWORTHINESS AND CRIED OUT TO JESUS FOR MERCY, AS ALL OF US NEED MERCY FROM JESUS FOR WE ARE UNWORTHY.

*** AND OH HOW THIS CUTS AGAINST THE GRAIN OF OUR CULTURE AND RELIGION THAT EXALTS SELF-ESTEEM, PRIDE AND WORTHINESS TO **APPROACH GOD, WE DESERVE GOD'S FAVOR, WE HAVE EARNED IT.**

**** AND IF GOOD **WORKS COULD EARN GOD'S** FAVOR FOR ANYONE, SURELY THE GENTILE ROMAN CENTURION DESERVED TO HAVE JESUS COME AND HEAL HIS SLAVE.

2. HE HAD ALL THE CREDENTIALS, HUMILITY, LOVE FOR PEOPLE, POWER, PRESTIGE AND WAS A GIVING PERSON, A GOOD PERSON.

* HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT HOW GOD OPERATES.

** FOR PROUD RELIGIOUS PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD. BUT WHO IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO OUR ETERNAL DESTINY?

*** FOR THE BIBLE SAYS THAT SALVATION IS NOT OF OUR OWN DOING, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, NOT A RESULT OF WORKS, SO THAT NO ONE MAY BOAST, QUOTE EPHESIANS 2:8&9, ROMANS 4:5, AND ROMANS 6:23.

**** AND FOLKS, SALVATION HAS TO BE THE GIFT OF GOD BECAUSE OTHERWISE WE WOULD TAKE THE CREDIT FOR OURSELVES.

3. BESIDES, GOD'S STANDARD IS HOLY PERFECTION! IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH RELIGIOUS PEOPLE. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE RELIGIOUS AND GO TO CHURCH, GIVE MONEY TO CHRISTIAN CAUSES, LOVE PEOPLE AND GET INVOLVED IN MINISTRY.

* WHAT GOD REQUIRES IS PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS. AND BY THAT STANDARD, NO ONE IS WORTHY, NO ONE EXCEPT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

** THEREFORE, IF GOD IS TO HELP US AND HAVE MERCY UPON US, IT WILL NEVER BE BECAUSE OF OUR MERIT, BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS MERCY.

*** WELL, THE CENTURION HAD THIS PERSPECTIVE, UNWORTHINESS AND AMAZING GOD-GIVEN FAITH. LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 7. NOW IN HIS SENSE OF SINFULNESS, SEEING HIS SPIRITUAL BANKRUPTCY BECAUSE OF HIS SENSE OF UNWORTHINESS, HE DID NOT CONSIDER HIMSELF WORTHY TO COME TO JESUS IN THE FIRST PLACE. HE WAS NOT VIEWING HIMSELF AS A DESERVING INDIVIDUAL DOING GOD A FAVOR.

* HE WAS A TRUE PENITENT WITH A BROKEN AND CONTRITE HEART.

** AND AS ALEXANDER WHYTE TAUGHT IN THE CHURCH HE SERVED IN SCOTLAND AND I QUOTE:
"THE TRUE CHRISTIAN'S NOSTRIL IS TO BE CONTINUALLY ATTENTIVE TO THE INNER CESSPOOL." (END QUOTE)

*** AND THIS IS NOT A POISONOUS PESSIMISM BUT A HEALTHY REALISM THAT HELPS US BREATHE THE FRESH AIR OF THE GOSPEL, ACCORDING TO PHILIP RYKEN.

**** FOR IF WE ARE PROUD OF WHOM WE ARE AND OUR WORKS AND WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THEN WE CAN NEVER BE SAVED, FOR GOD RESISTS THE PROUD IN I PETER 5:5.

**** BUT ALSO IN THAT VERSE, GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

1. HENCE, WHEN WE ADMIT - CONFESS THAT WE DO NOT DESERVE TO BE SAVED, WE ARE READY TO RECEIVE GOD'S **MERCY IN CHRIST**. (RELIGIOUS PEOPLE SEE THEMSELVES AS WORTHY, WHEREAS TRULY SAVED PEOPLE SEE THEMSELVES AS TOTALLY UNWORTHY.)

* AND THEN WE ARE READY TO SAY, LORD JESUS, HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER, I AM NOT WORTHY TO COME INTO YOUR PRESENCE. BUT I BELIEVE THE PROMISE OF YOUR WORD, THAT IN THE BLOOD OF YOUR CROSS, THERE IS ENOUGH GRACE FOR ME, QUOTE ROMANS 3:24.

** AND BOTTOM LINE, AS GOD OPENS OUR HEARTS AND EYES AND EARS TO THE GOSPEL, WE SEE WE ALSO NEED TRUE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

*** AND THE CENTURION **HAD FAITH IN CHRIST'S** ABILITY AND POWER TO HEAL HIS SLAVE FROM AFAR.

**** FOR WHAT DOES HE SAY, "LORD, JUST SAY THE WORD AND MY SLAVE WILL BE HEALED," JUST SAY THE WORD LORD.

2. FOR YOU ARE SO POWERFUL AND MIGHTY, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE UNDER MY ROOF TO HEAL HIM, JUST SAY THE WORD AND HE WILL BE HEALED.**

* BELOVED, THE CENTURION WAS ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT THAT THE LORD SPOKE WITH DIVINE POWER AND AUTHORITY AS THE ILLUSTRATION HE GAVE REVEALS. LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 8. NOW THE CENTURION UNDERSTOOD THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY AND THE DELEGATION OF POWER.

* HE WAS UNDER AUTHORITY SO HE OBEYED THE WORDS OF HIS AUTHORITIES AND HAD PEOPLE UNDER HIS AUTHORITY, AND WHEN HE TOLD THEM TO DO SOMETHING THEY DID IT, WHETHER IT WAS SOMEONE UNDER HIS AUTHORITY IN THE MILITARY OR UNDER HIS AUTHORITY AS A SLAVE.

**** AND HE UNDERSTOOD CHRIST'S AUTHORITY**
AND LORDSHIP AND POWER. AND HE KNEW
THAT EVEN DISEASE WOULD HAVE TO OBEY
JESUS. SO JUST SAY THE WORD, LORD AND MY
SERVANT WILL BE HEALED.

******* WHEN JESUS SAYS GO, SICKNESS WILL GO
AND WHEN JESUS SAYS COME, HEALTH WILL
ARRIVE. HE UNDERSTOOD THE PRINCIPLE OF
AUTHORITY AND POWER AND HE KNEW THAT
JESUS HAD AUTHORITY AND POWER.

******** WHICH LEADS US TO V. 9 **WHERE WE'LL**
START TO SEE THE RESPONSE BY JESUS TO THIS
CENTURION'S UNDERSTANDING AND FAITH.
LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 9.

A. NOW WHEN JESUS HEARD WHAT THE
CENTURION SAID, HE MARVELED, HE WAS
ASTONISHED IN HIS HUMANNES, HE WAS IN
WONDER.

* FOR THIS GENTILE SOLDIER SHOWED MORE GENUINE FAITH IN HIM THAN HE HAD FOUND WITH ANYONE IN ISRAEL.

** AND NO DOUBT THERE WERE JEWS THAT HAD TRULY BELIEVED IN JESUS UP TO THIS TIME, AT LEAST HIS DISCIPLES, WHO WILL SHOW LITTLE FAITH WHEN A GREAT STORM COMES WHEN THEY WERE IN A BOAT WITH JESUS.

*** BUT NOBODY SHOWED THE SINCERITY, THE SENSITIVITY, THE HUMILITY, THE LOVE, AND THE DEEP FAITH OF THIS GENTILE SOLDIER.

**** AND JESUS CAUSED A LOT OF PEOPLE TO MARVEL IN HIS LIFETIME, BUT ONLY ON TWO OCCASIONS IN THE N.T. DOES IT SAY THAT JESUS MARVELED.

1. THE FIRST ONE IS FOUND IN MARK 6:6 WHEN HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS WERE REJECTED AT **NAZARETH WHERE IT SAYS: "HE MARVELED BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF."**

*** BUT HERE IS THE 2'D TIME JESUS MARVELS, IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF, BUT OF BELIEF.**

THIS CENTURION HAS AMAZING FAITH. AND JESUS ANSWERS HIS PLEA TO HEAL HIS SLAVE. FOR LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.

E. READ V. 10. NOW THE FRIENDS THAT HAD BEEN DISPATCHED BY THE CENTURION RETURN TO HIS HOUSE.

* AND WHAT DO THEY FIND?

** THEY FOUND THE SLAVE IN GOOD HEALTH. THIS SLAVE WHO WAS NEAR DEATH WAS HEALED FROM AFAR. JESUS WAS NOT THERE, NO TOUCH WAS INVOLVED.

***** AND IT WASN'T THROUGH THE SLAVE'S FAITH IN JESUS THAT HEALED HIM, BUT THE LORD HONORED THE AMAZING FAITH OF THE CENTURION BY GRANTING HIS REQUEST.**

**** AND FOR THOSE WHO SAY THAT SO AND SO WAS NOT HEALED BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF FAITH, AS FAR AS WE KNOW THIS SLAVE HAD NO FAITH, NOTHING AT LEAST IS SAID ABOUT IT.

1. HOWEVER THE CENTURION HAD AMAZING FAITH, WHICH APPEARS TO ME TO BE A FRUIT OF GENUINE SAVING FAITH.

IN WRAP UP: (1) I WANT TO MAKE 4 APPLICATIONS FROM OUR PASSAGE TODAY. NO. 1 PRIVILEGE, BIRTH, PEDIGREE, RACE, HOW YOU WERE RAISED AND IN WHAT ENVIRONMENT DO NOT GUARANTEE SALVATION.

* THE JEWISH ELDERS NO DOUBT THOUGHT THEY WERE IN WHEN REALLY THEY WERE OUT IN THE DARK. IT TAKES A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST TO BRING SALVATION.

** AND THAT SHOULD BE A WARNING TO AMERICANS **WHO THINK THEY'RE GOING TO** HEAVEN BECAUSE WE LIVE IN A QUOTE CHRISTIAN NATION, AND EVEN CHILDREN WHO GROW UP IN A CHRISTIAN HOME. YOUR FATHER **OR MOTHER'S FAITH WILL NOT GET YOU IN**, YOU WILL NOT SLIDE IN ON THEIR COAT TAILS.

*** AND A PROFESSION AS A CHILD OR A TEENAGER WITHOUT FRUIT IN YOUR LIFE WILL NOT GET YOU IN. IT IS NOT RELIGION BUT RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS CHRIST WHICH SAVES THAT PRODUCES FRUIT. WHICH LEADS TO MY SECOND APPLICATION.

(2) THERE WAS FRUIT IN THE CENTURION'S LIFE OF GENUINE FAITH. HE WAS AFFECTIONATE, CONSIDERATE, THOUGHTFUL, HUMBLE AND A GIVING PERSON, YET HE SAW HIMSELF AS UNWORTHY.

* AND ALTHOUGH NONE OF THOSE THINGS SAVE, CERTAINLY THEY ARE FRUITS OF A GENUINE FAITH THAT WILL MAKE US LIGHTS IN A VERY SELFISH SOCIETY.

** FOR IN OUR SOCIETY SELFISHNESS AND MEISM REIGNS ESPECIALLY WITH PEOPLE IN POSITION, BUT NOT THIS CENTURION, AND CERTAINLY HE IS AN EXAMPLE TO US TODAY OF GODLY CHARACTER. MAY WE BE LIKE HIM, WE CAN STAND OUT IN A POSITIVE WAY BY JUST CARING AND APPLY PHILIPPIANS 2:15 (QUOTE IT).

(3) THEN THIRDLY WHEN IT COMES TO CHARACTER, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY AND LEARN NOT TO FIGHT AUTHORITY BUT SUBMIT TO IT EXCEPT WHEN IT IS IN CONTRADICTION TO OUR ULTIMATE AUTHORITY, THE WORD OF GOD, ACTS 5:29.

* BELOVED, WE MUST LEARN TO SEE GOD AS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY AND SUBMIT OURSELVES TO OUR HUMAN AUTHORITIES AS WE WOULD TO HIM, BECAUSE ULTIMATELY, IT IS TO HIM, QUOTE ROMANS 13:1&2.

** AND WHETHER THAT AUTHORITY IS IN GOVT., AT WORK, AT HOME, OR IN THE CHURCH, LEARN TO BE A MAN OR A WOMAN UNDER AUTHORITY AS THIS CENTURION WAS IN OUR TEXT TODAY.

*** **DON'T BE ANTI**-AUTHORITY, BUT BE UNDER AUTHORITY FOR TO BE ANTI-AUTHORITY IS TO BE ANTI-GOD AND WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT WILL MAKE IN OUR LORD PROTECTING US AND USING US.

**** LAST OF ALL TODAY, DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AS WORTHY OF HEAVEN OR UNWORTHY OF HEAVEN? IF YOU SEE YOURSELF AS WORTHY ON YOUR OWN, YOU ARE NOT ON THE ROAD TO HEAVEN, BUT NEED TO TURN IN REPENTANT FAITH TO THE WORTHY ONE, THE LORD JESUS **CHRIST. (LET'S PRAY)**