

**Theme:** The world may see our good works and praise us. But if we are to have life – and know eternal life – we must see ourselves as God sees us and humbly bow before the authority of Christ and His Word.

**Background and Introduction:** We move from teaching to narrative in which Jesus illustrates the very principles he has taught. The passage revolves around life and death, true worth and true authority.

## I. An Unusual Request

### A. A dying servant (Nothing unusual there.)

1. Death comes to us all.
  - Consequence of sin. All fell in Adam. (Romans 5:12ff)
  - We cannot escape its reach.
2. More than just a “useful servant”
  - “Highly valued” or “precious”
  - Genuine concern for his welfare, restoration

### B. A Roman centurion

1. A powerful man.
  - Wealthy and respected
  - Loved his enemy!
  - Loved *by* his enemy
2. Needs Jesus’ help
  - Desperate to help his servant

### C. A Jewish Delegation –

NOTE: Jesus teaching on “love your enemies” is demonstrated by a Roman “loving” his Jewish “enemies” such that, they come to defend him.

1. Sends Jewish elders
  - Not under duress - they go *willingly*
2. Pleading his Merit – His “Worth”
  - Loves our nation; Built our synagogue!
  - **He is worthy** of your help

NOTE: They believe he is “good” or “good enough” *merit* Jesus’ blessing – as many continue to about themselves today. (Rom.3:10-12)

## II. An Unworthy Servant

- A. Giving honor to Jesus
  - “I couldn’t approach you”
  - “Not worthy to receive you in my home”
- B. In the world’s eyes? He is **Worthy**.
  - Good name, good reputation, wealth and power

### C. In his own eyes?

1. Judges self - and is found “wanting”
  - What true righteousness did he possess? None.
  - Not proud with the “blessings” of this life.
2. Compared to Jesus’ Worth?? Not worthy!
  - Christ’s worth - authority – righteousness??? Unsurpassed!!
  - In His own eyes? **Not worthy!**

#### NOTE/QUESTIONS:

1. How do you view yourself? Through the eyes of others – or through Christ’s eyes?
2. How do you view Jesus? As a good example to follow – or as the holy, sinless, righteous, eternal judge and King?

### III. An Unwavering Faith

- A. Trusting in Jesus’ power
  - Just say the word
  - A man under authority
  - Accepts the authority of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:54,55)
- B. Trusts in Jesus mercy
  - In true humility
  - Not in his goodness – but in Christ’s

### IV. Christ’s Unmerited Favor

- A. Amazing faith
  - Marveled at the faith of this Gentile
  - Faith not seen in Israel
- B. Loving an enemy
  - Jesus doesn’t see a sinner as his enemy – if he admits he is a sinner!
  - Responds with unmerited favor and grace and blessing
- C. The gift of life!
  1. A dying servant is healed!
    - Jesus “says the word” and his authority rules
  2. A condemned Centurion finds life!
    - A foreigner finds life (Ephesians 2:8,9)

**Conclusion:** What will it take to bring you to the same place of humility and faith?

In the eyes of the world – seek to live graciously and honorably for the honor of Christ.

In your own eyes – see your true nature and self. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord so that...

In Christ’s Eyes – He looks upon the object of His mercy and grace.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, **and he will exalt you.** (James 4:10)