

### “I Have Not Found Such Great Faith”

Luke records all that Jesus “taught and did (Acts 1:1). He leaves the place of teaching and immediately engages in “doings.”

**The principle characters.** This unnamed ‘army captain’ is described by Polybius as one of a class “who can command, is steady in action, and reliable; not over anxious to rush into the fight, but when hard pressed must be ready to hold his ground and die at his post.” Every time a centurion is mentioned in the New Testament, he is a man of character (Lk. 23:47; Acts 10:22; 23:17, 23; 24:23; 27:1, 43).

“Note the problem: a slave in a gentile’s house, who is dying and cannot be moved; and Jesus who as a Jew cannot enter this ceremonially unclean house and hasten to the slave’s side. But Jesus is already near and ready to enter into this unclean house. It occurs to the centurion that something must be wrong, that the Jewish elders perhaps went too far in urging Jesus, or that Jesus was under some misapprehension in regard to the kind of house He is about to enter. So the centurion hastily sends a few of his friends to stop Jesus and not to let Him go too far.” (Lenski) **Did this Centurion see and talk with Jesus personally, face to face?**

#### What impresses you about this narrative?

- **The extreme humility of this soldier.** “Humility in Scripture does not mean pretending to be worthless and refusing positions of responsibility, but knowing and keeping the place God has appointed for one. Being humble is a matter of accepting God’s arrangement, whether it means the high exposure of leadership (Moses, Num. 12:3), or the obscurity of being a servant. When Jesus said He was ‘lowly in heart’ (Mt. 11:29), He meant that He was following the Father’s plan for His earthly life. (The Reformation Study Bible, page 1519)
- **The great reverence with which he interacted with the Lord Christ.**
- **The confidence with which God expects us to figure out the accurate picture of what occurred as we compare Matthew’s account with that of Luke.** Why take such painstaking care with the Word of God? Because it is the most valuable thing given by God to mankind. You might not agree with that assessment, but the question to ask is “What is the estimate of worth which God places upon His Word? Are you willing to come to share in that conviction?”
- **The sympathetic understanding of the principle of authority shared by Christ and this officer.**

It affected their sense of “calling.” “I also am a man set under authority.”

It gives us an appreciation of the role of the “apostle.” (Matthew 10:40ff; John 17:23, 25) The one “sent by God” bears the authority of the God who sent him. “Then they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

- **We gain perspective concerning the power of the Word spoken by Christ.**
- **We are impressed with the nature of great faith.** It is founded on those things listed above.

Remember the **humility** of faith. The more we recognize our emptiness, the greater will be our thirst to draw from Christ. Note: **love** as the motivation of faith - “faith works by love”. Consider the great benefit of belonging to the family of God. The **authority** of Christ and the word of God is the basis of faith; the **worth** of faith – more precious than gold that perishes.

The Jewish emissaries boasted in the works of the Centurion. Jesus rejoiced in his faith. Do you possess an active faith which bears the characteristics of the faith of this exemplary man? “The righteous shall live by (this) faith.”