

Under Authority

Matthew 8:5-13 NKJV

“Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.”

The Centurion pointed out that, **like** Jesus, he *also* was a man under authority.

The encounter between the two suggest several lessons of authority and leadership.

1. **Effective leaders willingly admit when they need help.** (8:5) The centurion faced a problem that won't be on his own considerable power. But he was willing to go outside of his resources to enlist Jesus to deal with the situation.

2. **Effective leaders respond to matters of the heart and spirit.** (8:6,8) The centurion was moved by compassion for his suffering, servant, and perceive that Jesus had inside and power that went beyond a physicians skill. (Side-note, the word servant is translated in the Greek, but that same word in Aramaic and Hebrew is translated SON)

3. **Effective leaders are able to approach others on their terms.** (8:5, 8) The centurion came in faith, pleading with Jesus to help his servant. As a Roman officer, he would have ordered, Jesus, or offered him money. But instead he approached the Lord in a manner consistent with his nature.

4. **Effective leaders, understand, and except the nature of authority.** (8:9) The centurion understood what submission is all about. When he issued a command, his soldiers simply obeyed. He recognize that Jesus had the same authority over illness.

5. **Effective leaders invest trust in those under their authority.** (8:9-10) Great leaders display great faith in their people. The centurion trusted that Jesus could do what he said he would do.

6. **Effective leaders know who to trust.** (8:10) Trust is only as useful as the trustworthiness of one in whom it is placed. The centurion's faith was marvelous, because it was invested in the right person, Jesus!

Do you...

Do you rely too much on your own competencies, or do you *honestly* assess both your strengths *and* your weaknesses?

Do you respond to people only in terms of the facts, or are you sensitive to the feelings and unexpressed needs of others, as well as your own?

Are you willing to meet and work with people on their terms, and the arena? Or must everyone come to you and play by your rules?

“**Blessed** are the flexible, **they shall not break.**”

Are you willing to be in charge but unwilling to submit?

In whom *and* in what do you place your faith?

SCRIPTURES TO REFLECT

“For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

Matthew 7:29 NKJV

“When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!’”

Matthew 8:10 NKJV

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

Romans 8: 14-17 NKJV

REFLECTION PROMPTS

- What do you hear in your heart when you read these scriptures?
- What changes need to take place in order to come into alignment scripture?
- In what ways can you apply the revelation you are receiving to your everyday life?

