

Jews would not do. He told Jesus He could just speak the word, like he spoke to his soldiers, and the boy would be healed.

Jesus was amazed (another testimony to His real humanity) and said he had a stronger faith than any Jews had put in him. And then He uttered the most revolutionary statement of His ministry. He said, many Gentiles will be in heaven and many Jews will be in hell.

This Captain was probably one of many Gentiles who became a “proselyte of the gate”, people who adopted the Jewish belief in one God and the morals and ethics they practiced; but did not submit to their rituals. Like Cornelius in Acts 10, he was converted. He surrendered to as much of God as he knew, confessed his sins and asked for and received forgiveness. God worked the miracle of the new birth in him and gave him a love for the Jewish people and humility towards and confidence in Jesus.

Jesus knew God was going to reach **Jews and non-Jews** through Him. God formed the Jewish people out of Abraham to “**bleed the rest of the world**” (non-Jews). Isaiah 49, a poem about the slaughtered Servant in Isaiah 53; said the Servant would “gather” and “restore” the Jewish people, and God told the servant: “**I will give you as a light to the nations (the Jews term for non-Jews) and “My salvation will reach to the ends of the earth.”**

Jesus saw in this man, a foretaste, a preview of the work of the church that will result with what we see in Revelation five – people from every race, language and nation praising Him and the Father in heaven. When we stand on the Word of God, we may stand alone; different from all others, but God will stand with us.

God’s second touch came through a **converted prostitute (Luke 7:1-10)**. Jesus was invited to eat with a Pharisee and when He walked in, the man insulted Him publicly by not doing what was customary – have His feet

washed by a servant, give Him the kiss of peace on each cheek and put a touch of perfume on His head. Can you imagine how out of place Jesus must have felt in the midst of the man’s friends with their grins?

Guests were allowed to attend when Rabbis were invited to dinner, and standing at the wall was a woman who was broken hearted over the way Jesus was treated. She was a converted prostitute and she mustered the courage to walk over to the table, where she knew she was not welcome. Her tears fell on Jesus’ feet. Her hair wiped them away and she anointed her Savior with perfume she had brought.

This had to “touch” Jesus deeply. Not one Rabbi in the land would have anything to do with her, but He knew God wanted Him to. This lady, cleansed and changed by the Father, was living proof of that.

When you are trying to live for the Lord and are confused about whether or not you are on the right path; open your Bible and take it to the Lord, and you will receive His “touch from heaven.”

It can be a word or card from someone, a Bible verse, etc. I have seriously felt like I needed to leave the ministry three times in my sixty years; and each time God reached out and touched me and let me know I needed to stay.

J.C. Penny, when he was young, came to the end of his rope. Even though he was a Christian, he was depressed and fighting for his life in a hospital, when he heard the song, “God will take care of you” coming from a little chapel. He told God he would build his life on that promise, and built one of the world’s largest a chain of stores on Christian principles.

Most of the time, faith is the calm assurance that God is holding our hand through all the ups and downs of life; but sometimes it is leaping into darkness, believing His hand is there to catch us.