

Jesus And The Centurion Soldier Of Matthew 8

Sunday AM 04/08/18

Introduction:

Through out the three years of Jesus' ministry various people came to Jesus. Some came testing Him, some came out of desperation, some out of curiosity, and some just came. In *Matthew 8.5* we read of a man who came with Jesus. Unlike others he came with faith. See *Matthew 8.5-13; Luke 7.1-9*.

I) Capernaum

- A) This was the adopted city of Jesus, *Matthew 9.1*
- B) First mentioned in *Matthew 4.13* and not mentioned in Acts.
- C) *John 6* ended with Jesus at Capernaum.
- D) *Matthew 11.23* is a severe rebuke of Capernaum.

II) A Centurion

- A) A Roman soldier with command over 100 men.
 - 1. In a Roman legion there were 6,000 men; the legion was divided into 60 centuries, each consisting of 100 men, and in command of each century there was a centurion. These centurions were the long service, regular soldiers of the Roman army. They were responsible for the discipline of the regiment, and they were the cement which held the army together.
 - 2. A description of a centurion, "They must not be so much venturesome seekers after danger as men who

can command, steady in action, and reliable; they ought not be over-anxious to rush into the fight, but when hard pressed, they must be ready to hold their ground, and die at their post."

B) One would not expect to find such a person to be spiritually minded.

C) Other Centurions comes to mind. The one at the cross of Jesus who said this was surely the Son of God, *Matthew 27.54*; and Cornelius in *Acts 10*. Every case of a centurion in the Book of Acts, he did his duty and protected the Apostle Paul.

1. *Acts 23.23* when it was discovered a plot to assassinate Paul, Felix ordered two centurions to take Paul to Caesarea.
2. Centurion transported Paul on the way to Rome, was shipwrecked with Paul. *Acts 27.31-32*

D) This man appears to of been compassionate and religiously minded.

1. He comes to Jesus on behalf of his servant. Not his family member but a servant!
2. Young Literal Translation has "my young man".
3. This servant was paralyzed and in torment

III) Jesus offers to go to this man's house, *v. 7*.

A) Other times Jesus entered into His followers house.

1. *Matthew 9.10* Jesus entered an there were sinners there!

2. *Luke 7.37* A Pharisee's house and a woman came and anointed Jesus feet with her tears.
3. *Luke 8.41* Jarius a ruler of the synagogue come because of his daughter.

B. Obviously the offer was to go to this man's house and heal his servant.

IV) But the Centurion intervened and offered reasons for Jesus to not go to his house, *v. 8*

A) He was not worthy. This man realized his sinful condition.

B) His great faith in Jesus - just speak a word.

1. Unlike Jarius who asked Jesus to come to his house this man did not do so.
2. There were times Jesus did things for the benefit of the audience, and us. *John 11.41-42*.

V) This man understood authority, *v. 9*

A) Authority - the power, ability, the right to do.

B) As a soldier - he commanded his men and they did what he said.

1. Soldiers are trained to obey orders. Orders, commands, are not suggestions or mere request.
2. He related this to Jesus authority, power over sickness.

C) We must accept Jesus' authority as well as His sacrifice.

1. I don't agree.
2. I don't see why
3. I don't like that plan.

VI) This man's faith is an example to all of us, *v. 10*

- A) Capernaum was not a place of great faith, despite this being Jesus' adopted city.
- B) The Jews often disregarded the scriptures. When Jesus asked "Have you not read?" many times he did so because they knew the scriptures but did not have faith in them.

VII) Those who will be and not be in the kingdom, *v. 11-12*

- A) Abraham was a man of great faith. He believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. *James 2.23*
Isaac and Jacob also had great faith in God. *Hebrews 11.20,21*
- B) Those not of the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be in the kingdom because of their great faith.
- C) Those without faith will not be in the kingdom

VIII) The healing of the servant, *v. 13*

- A) To make his point the passage tells us the servant was healed.
- B) This man's faith was rewarded.