

The Man with Such Great Faith

Introduction

Luke 7:1-10 Found also in Matthew 8.

CENTURION: Captain of 100 men in the Roman Army.
Carried a staff of vine wood as his badge of office.

1. **This is one of the four centurions in the New Testament.**
 - A. **There was one at the cross.**

Matthew 27:54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

- B. **There was Cornelius.**
Acts 10:1-2, 22

- C. **There was Julius, who took Paul to Rome.**

Acts 27:1 And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment.

Acts 27:42-43 And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land,

2. **All seem to be men of noble qualities.**

3. **Someone once said that every man is really 3 men.**
 - A. **The man his enemies think he is.**
 - B. **The man his friends think he is.**
 - C. **The man he thinks he is.**
4. **I would add a fourth man: The man he REALLY is.**
5. **In this particular case we have what:**
 - A. **What his neighbors think of him**
 - B. **His own estimation of himself**
 - C. **What the Lord thinks of him - Who he really is.**

What the Neighbors Thought

1. **Based upon what they had seen.**
 - A. **He was a public man subject to daily inspection.
(Being in charge of many men)**
2. **They approved of him.**
 - A. **"He is worthy". (verse 4) (Deserving)**
 - 1) **They thought highly of him.**
 - B. **"He loves our nation". (verse 5)**
 - C. **"He has built us a synagogue". (Verse 5)**
3. **What would our neighbors say about us?**
 - A. **It matters what others think.**
1 Peter 2:11-12
 - 1) **(verse 12 explained): In respect to the very matters for which they reproach you, they may see by your meek and upright conduct that there is really no ground for reproach!**
 - B. **We are to be lights.**

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

 - C. **Be a good neighbor.**
Matthew 5:16

What He Thought

1. **Based on the examination of his own heart.**
 - A. **This is a sincere self estimate.**
 - B. **He says, "I am not worthy". (Verses 6-7)**
 - 1) **"To come under my roof."**
 - C. **The opposite to what they said. (they said "is worthy" - verse 4)**
2. **Why did he say this?**
 - A. **He knew himself better than they.**
 - 1) **Expression of great humility**

Matthew 23:12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

- B. **He was judging himself by a higher standard than they were.**
2 Corinthians 10:12
 - 1) **He was not comparing himself with men but rather counted his unworthiness to be in the presence of the almighty Lord.**
- C. **It is possible that he alone recognized who was about to come under his roof.**

3. A thorough self examination will profit all of us.

A. "Examine yourselves".

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified.

B. "Let a man examine himself".

1 Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

What Jesus Knew about Him

1. The Lord "Marveled". (Verse 9)

A. Jesus admires his faith.

- 1) Verse 8 - He KNEW what Jesus could do. He was under authority and knew how to obey and likewise he had authority to command and all would obey him as he did with his superiors.**

B. Only one other instance recorded in which Jesus "marveled".

- 1) And then it was at unbelief!
Mark 6:4-6**
- 2) Miracles would not even cause these to believe in Him - because they knew him as a "relative"**

2. This man's "great" faith. (Verse 9)

A. "Not even in Israel" (Jesus meant - I have not found such an instance of confidence among the Jews.)

1) There is also "little" faith.

- ☛ The disciples had "little" faith when the storm came up and covered the boat in waves.

Matthew 8:26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea....

2) There is also "dead" faith.

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

3) How did this man get his faith?

- a) He no doubt got his faith as we do today – in that we have heard the gospel and believed.

Romans 10:17

3. What about our faith?

A. Would the Lord marvel at how great it is?

B. Or at the lack of it?

C. All of us must have faith in God our father.

Hebrews 11:6

Hebrews 10:39

Conclusion

- 1. Each estimate of the centurion was true from each person's viewpoint.**
- 2. However, it is the Lord's approval that counts - that is who we REALLY are!**

