

Faith that moves Mountains
Part 5 The centurion: A man of great faith.
Matthew 8:5-13

I. Faith of the centurion

- Read Matthew 8:5-10
- In these verses of scripture we see four truths demonstrated by this roman centurion that will help us as we approach Jesus in our daily walk of faith.
 - **Truth one- The centurion approached Jesus with great humility**
 - Approaching Jesus as a gentile roman soldier was unheard of in that day.
 - The centurion approach Jesus and humbly acknowledged Him as Lord! Verse 6
 - He knew that he had a need that only Jesus himself could fix. He was not relying on his own effort in this situation. Read Isaiah 57:15
 - **Truth two- The centurion approached Jesus with a sense of unworthiness**
 - When Jesus agreed to heal the centurion's servant He said in verse 7 "I will come and heal him" note the response of the centurion.
 - He did not say that his servant was not worthy for Jesus to come into his home, he said "I" am not worthy that you should come into my home.
 - This reminds us of the account in Luke 18:9-14 of the Pharisee and the publican.
 - **Truth three- The centurion approached Jesus with a sense of love for his slave**
 - The centurion was literally pouring out his heart for another person
 - This was a great demonstration of intercessory prayer for another person.
 - Matthew 22:39 "thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."
 - We are not called to just love those who are like us, but we are called to love as Jesus loves without respect to race, creed, or social status.
 - **Truth four- The centurion demonstrated a great faith in Jesus' authority**
 - In verses 8 and 9 we see that the centurion understands the authority of Jesus to transcend all barriers that would come against his servant being healed.
 - The centurion understood the chain of command. He knew that he was under authority, but he also knew that he was in a position of authority. When he gave commands they were followed.
 - Do we understand that Jesus was under the authority of the Father, and yet is in authority of all creation as well? Luke 2:49 Jesus made this clear at the age of 12 as He was teaching in the temple!

II. Jesus demonstrates He is the Messiah

- Read Matthew 8:11-12
- In this passage of scripture we see that the centurion's faith led Jesus to make two statements about His ability to be the Messiah.
- These truths will help us see and learn what kind of faith it took to approach Jesus as this centurion did.
 - Truth One-Jesus posses the power to receive a man despite any barrier that the culture or society has placed upon the person. Verse 11
 - In this verse we learn that Jesus is literally breaking down culture barriers by using the fact that many will come from the east and from the west and will sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob represented the nation of Israel, but yet Jesus is literally saying in this verse that there will come a day when gentile believers will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - Jesus always sought to break down cultural, ethnic, religious, and economic barriers.
 - Examples would include the woman at the well, the leper in verses 1-5 of the same chapter, and many others.
 - Truth Two- Jesus has the ability to reject men, even if they claim to be children of the kingdom. Verse 12
 - In this verse Jesus is making His proclamation as to His ability to judge.
 - Jesus has the power to reject the unbelieving, even if the claim to be the children of the kingdom.
 - Many agree that this verse was specifically talking to those of the Jewish faith, who were trying to enter the kingdom through their strict religion.

III. The centurion's request was granted. (verse 13)

- The great faith of the centurion moved Jesus to grant the healing to his servant.
- One key phrase that Jesus speaks to the centurion that should speak to us today is the following "As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee."
 - This man believed that Jesus literally transcended time, space, cultural barriers, and even his own unworthiness.
 - The centurion knew that Jesus was the key to his servants healing and believed Jesus at His word.
 - He did not need Jesus to physically come to his home, he simply knew the request would be answered if Jesus spoke the word.
- Do we have that kind of faith today?

