

The Faith That Brings Miracles - The Centurion

Matthew 8:5-13

Life Group Discussion – February 11th, 2018

Today's passage is about the amazing faith of the centurion.

After Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount, He entered Capernaum. It was there a centurion came to Jesus asking Him to heal his servant who lay paralyzed at home.

Jesus answered him saying, "I will come and heal him" but the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed".

Jesus marveled at the man's faith and said that He had not found another person in Israel with that great a faith. Why did Jesus marvel at this man's response?

1. The centurion's faith was an acceptance of Jesus' power

The centurion knew who Jesus was, and he knew what power Jesus held.

At that time, Rome was at the height of its power. This centurion knew the influence and power that his nation held. Therefore he knew that the commanding officer needed to just say one word for all others to begin moving. That is why the centurion told Jesus that even if He did not personally go to his home, one word would be enough to heal.

Because Jesus is the Creator, He has power.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

Jesus is the God of Creation and has the power that made this world. It is only because He put on the form of man and came down to Earth that we underestimate His power. Jesus is God. The centurion realized this truth.

No matter how fast a car may be, it is the policeman with the speed gun that controls how fast the car can go. The policeman may not be as strong or fast as the car but the title of "policeman" gives him power over it.

Jesus is the same. He may have come into this world born in a manger, but He is not just a man. He is the creator and ruler over the Universe.

2. The centurion had a heart of compassion and love

The reason the centurion pleaded with Jesus was because his servant was dying at home. He had compassion for those under him. He threw away all formalities by begging Jesus to save his servant. He showed his love at that moment.

To be able to love and care for those around us, to serve our neighbors and our friends is not an easy task.

That is why it says in James, "Faith without works is dead".

You can read the entire bible, hear every sermon but if you do not have a heart of service and love toward those around you, that faith is dead.

Just like the centurion and his care for his servant, we need to look closely at the people around us and see where there is pain and hurt so that we can show our love through our service.

3. The centurion was a man of intercessory prayer

The centurion did not come to Jesus for himself; he came to Jesus for his servant. It is important to pray for yourself, but there is a special power over intercessory prayer. What did the centurion pray about?

First, the centurion prayed that his servant would be healed.

When must also pray to God when we are sick or hurt. We believe that our God is one who heals and will heal if we simply ask.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

If we are asking God to heal us, we must rely on Him and pray in faith.

And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (James 5:15)

When the centurion prayed in faith, what happened? Jesus said He would go and heal the servant.

And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." (Matthew 8:7)

Jesus did not ask for the servant to be brought to Him. Jesus said He would go and heal. When we pray in faith our God will answer.

Second, the centurion brought the problem to Jesus and prayed.

The centurion did not hold the problem of the servant to himself but went to Jesus. He did not just stay at home and worry, he went to the feet of Jesus. We need this type of attitude as well.

When we have a problem, come before Jesus and give Him your prayers. Stay rooted in faith and pray before God in the church. You may pray at home, but intentionally coming to church is a greater type of faith.

4. The centurion's faith trusted on the word of Jesus

There are three types of faith.

First, there is intellectual faith.

This is a faith of calculation. You decide through your own thoughts and judgments. To be honest, this is not actual faith.

Second, there is blind faith.

This is faith without any knowledge. Similar to superstition, this type of faith can lead to a fanatical and wrong type of belief system.

Third, there is faith that relies on the Bible.

Those that say, "Just believe" have a wrong type of faith. Even though you should not have the first type of faith, there must be a reason and condition for your faith. Faith is not through your feelings or emotions. That reason and condition for our faith is the word of God.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (Matthew 24:35)

I hope that we have a faith that relies only on the word of God. Do not be people who rely on their emotions but trust only in God.

My church,

I hope that we can be like the centurion that relies on Jesus and will wait in faith for what He will do in our lives.

SHARING-----

1. The policeman has complete control over the much bigger car because of the power that comes from his name. In the same way Jesus has the power of the Creator in Him. Do you really believe in the power and might of Jesus Christ? If you do, how have you shown this in your past? Please share
2. It was through the centurion's intercessory prayer that the servant's illness was healed. When was a time someone was healed through your intercessory prayer for them?
3. There are three types of faith. What is the easiest type of faith for you to fall into? What do we need to do in order to stay secure in the faith that relies on the Bible?