

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Centurion of Capernaum

Last week... Warning #3 to conclude SoM – against imitating Christ vs following Christ
Do the will of My Father...as Jesus did thereby being “in” and “of and “with” Christ
Luke 6:46

This time...Jesus moves on from the SoM and begins His 2nd preaching tour in the Galilee

We see a remarkable example of what Jesus

- just taught (SoM)
- would teach His disciples near the very end of His ministry

John 14:10-11 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?
The words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the
Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works. Believe Me that I
am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the
very works' sake.

We will be in

- Luke 7
 - Gentile account (written to the Gentiles)
 - “full” account
- Matt 8
 - Jewish account (written to the Jews)
 - “summary” account

Luke 7

v1 ended all His sayings...entered into Capernaum:

After teaching a great multitude about citizenship in the kingdom of God (SoM),
delivering the Kingdom of heaven’s spiritual and eternal “superiors” of

- Declaration of Independence i.e. Declaration of Dependence)
- Emancipation Proclamation
- Gettysburg Address

Jesus carries on with the work of His ministry

Matt 8:1 great multitudes followed Him...

a large part of audience followed Jesus...to Capernaum, His ministry HQ

The Mount of Beatitudes is nearby Capernaum

v2 a certain centurion's servant:

This is Jesus Christ's next teaching moment

This is His next appointment, even though will meet neither

The servant:

- of a Roman centurion
- valued by the centurion, his master
- sick/diseased
- ready to die...on his deathbed

The centurion:

- officer in the Roman Army occupying Galilee
- very tough and talented soldier (to merit a promotion to "captain")
 - usually a "soldier of fortune"...ruthless pursuit of spoils
- understands war and military life
- has a lot of power and authority (that of the Roman Empire)

- unnamed
- holds this servant as precious to him
- has compassion for his servant...a devoted friendship

v3 when he heard of Jesus:

Can an officer of the occupying army tasked with keeping the peace in Capernaum, a very busy stop and taxing station on the Via Maris, not know about the great commotion swirling around this Man the Jews call "Jesus of Nazareth"?

Jesus has not been hidden and His works have not been "done in a corner"

- turned water into wine at a Jewish wedding
- cleansed the Jewish Temple...at Passover (heightened alert)
- healed the nobleman's son...the son of another Roman official based in Capernaum...while in Cana
- miraculous catch of fish by fisherman based in Capernaum
- cast out a demon in the synagogue at Capernaum
- the many physical healings at the house of one of these fishermen...all who came
- healed a leper
- healed a paralyzed man brought to Jesus by his friends...lowered thru the roof...in Capernaum...his sins forgiven
- multitudes are following Him

No, the centurion most certainly knew about Jesus...even investigated Him!
And he no doubt had learned that the Pharisees and Sadducees despised Him...
their great agitation toward Jesus because of the healings done on their
Sabbath

Why Jesus never went to Tiberias, built by Herod Antipas about 10 years
earlier and where the Pharisees and Sadducees in the Galilee lived

So, here, when he hears the report that Jesus is in Capernaum,
the centurion of Capernaum

- asks Jesus to come heal his beloved servant
- sends Jewish elders...rulers of the synagogue...
as his “worthy” proxies/ambassadors

The centurion

- has compassion for another...a servant at that
- has no power or authority in this battle of life vs death
- seeks the help of One he knows can help

And in so doing, this Gentile...a Roman centurion no less...
is a witness of Jesus Christ to the Jews

One of the rulers of the synagogue may have been a man named Jairus...
of whom we will read in Luke 8 when Jesus heals his daughter

v4-5 they besought Him instantly...he was worthy:

The elders received the centurion’s request and went to Jesus to deliver it.

The Jewish elders promptly and earnestly asked Jesus to do as the centurion has
requested because...the centurion

- is worthy of the help...deserving, due a reward
- loves (*agapao*) the Jewish nation...Ruth 1:16-ish
- built (paid for) the synagogue in Capernaum
 - a generous gift from a man of means
 - large
 - beautiful...Roman-esque

[photos]

Is the name of this centurion Cornelius?

Acts 10:1-8

Or is this another remarkable Roman centurion?

Does it matter?

Whose Name is important?

v6a Jesus went with:

Why did Jesus go with the Jewish elders to the centurion's home?

- Respect thy elders...the rulers of the synagogue in Capernaum?
No
- The centurion had earned or paid for the healing?
No
- Jesus also had compassion for the servant AND had the power and authority in this battle?
Yes
- Jesus loved the servant?
Yes
- Jesus loved the centurion?
Yes
- The faith of the centurion?
Yes
Heb 11:1, 6
The centurion was honest, believing the evidence of Who Jesus is and letting the evidence speak the Truth to him
- This was a teaching moment?
Yes

v6b-8 sent friends...Lord...not worthy...say in a word...under authority:

As Jesus, led by the Jewish elders, is approaching the home of the centurion, the Roman centurion sent a 2nd contingent of ambassadors (presumably Gentiles, perhaps even soldiers) with his message to Jesus...a message laced with faith:

- Lord: *kurios* = Lord, master, God, Supreme Authority
spoken to who the Jews thought was just an itinerant preacher?!
- I do not want to trouble you
You and Your time is more important than me and mine...a VIP
- I am not worthy...
 - not “fit” (spiritually an unholy sinner) that You should enter my house (probably not target of “We Buy Ugly Homes”) (understood Acts 10:28a)
 - not “fit or entitled” to come personally to You (there was no one in the area he could not go before)

shows the centurion is NOT a proselyte of Judaism

- proselytes were equal to Jews
- no reason to not approach Jesus personally
- not unfit before another Jew

- say in a word...*logos*...
 - just speak...Your voice, Your word is sufficient
John 1:1, 14 and 2 Cor 2:16 and 2 Cor 3:5 and 2 Cor 12:9
 - Your proximity is irrelevant...this is a matter of authority
 - You have the authority (of all things) to win the battle I cannot,
the battle of disease and illness in the war of life being
waged on and by humanity
- I understand authority
 - soldiers...my will being done in warfare on the battlefield
 - servants...my will being done in my house
 - this is a matter of authority...Your authority
 - Not a question of “can” You but “will” You

This is a remarkable profession of humble faith...
in the absolute power and authority of Jesus Christ

v9 Jesus...marveled:

When Jesus heard the message of the centurion, He marveled...
“wondered at” and “admired” the faith of this Gentile

Can the all-knowing, all-powerful God marvel?
Can man marvel?
Jesus Christ is...100% Man and 100% God

And Jesus never passes up a teaching moment
No greater faith have I found in Israel than this man’s
The Jews (Rom 9:4)...require a sign before they believe Me
(Won’t believe it until I see it)
This man believes before he sees – this is genuine faith

So great is the centurion’s faith

- “much”...quantity
- “such”...quality
- in his deep-felt unworthiness...worthiness of the Kingdom
- in his acknowledged unfitness...fitness for the Kingdom

Jesus will marvel one other time...during His 3rd Preaching Tour in Galilee
Mark 6:1-6 after He had healed Jarius’ daughter

The Son of God and the Son of Man marveled twice in His ministry

1. faith/belief/trust...of a Gentile, a Roman centurion
2. unbelief/distrust...of the Jews to whom He was sent

v10 found the servant whole:

The Jewish elders and the centurion's friends returned to the centurion's home...
to find the beloved servant made whole...
healed in fact by the word of Jesus from a distance believed in and
requested by the centurion...
Jesus never having met either the centurion or his servant

Who might we imply was an eyewitness of the healing of the servant?
The servant's master, the centurion

Matt 8

Remember the different perspectives from the different yet harmonious Gospels

- Luke 7
 - Gentile account (written to the Gentiles)
 - "full" account
- Matt 8
 - Jewish account (written to the Jews)
 - "summary" account

v5-10 It reads as if the centurion came personally to Jesus vs sent emissaries as in Luke
To send an emissary/ambassador is the same as if he went personally

What someone does thru an emissary/ambassador/agent, he does himself
The Father sent the Son to speak His words and to do His works
Thus, John 14:8-9

What the ambassadors said in Luke is this...the words of the centurion,
as if the centurion had personally said these words

In this account we learn that the servant has palsy, a disease that attacked the joints,
causing excruciating pain and paralysis

Having knowledge of

- the OT...why he loved Israel and paid to have a house of worship built while not being a proselyte
 - Jesus of Nazareth...the testimonies of His works if not also His words
- it is as if the centurion believed John 14:10-11 before Jesus taught it to the 11 disciples

v11-12 many shall come...the kingdom of heaven...the kingdom:

The Lord's teaching moment is captured in greater detail here than in Luke 7...
because it is for the Jews:

many shall come from the east and the west...
nations of the world, the 99% of Adam's race
vs just the 1% of Adam's race that is Israel

with AI&J...
physical descendents are the children of Israel
but their spiritual descendents are Rom 1:16-17, Gal 3:16-29

in the kingdom of heaven...
the kingdom of God (Constitution of which is SoM)
Gentiles are included in God's Plan of Redemption

children of the kingdom...

- of unbelieving Israel (Acts 1:6, Rom 2:28-29)
- of the god of this world (2 Cor 4:3-4)
- of "God on earth" as administered by the RT/amillennial believing Church, led by the Roman Church

outer darkness...
fearsome, terrifying darkness
outside, apart from the City of Light, the New Jerusalem

weeping and gnashing of teeth...
wailing and teeth grating out of unending torment due to
unbelief...a fatally wrong choice given all the evidence of
Who Jesus Christ is

With words recorded in Matt but not Luke, Jesus

- rebukes Israel, chosen people, for not having the faith of this Gentile
- teaches that many Gentiles shall rest with God and the faithful Jewish patriarchs, but many Jews will not

v13 as thou hast believed:

The centurion had honest, simple faith in Jesus Christ, having honestly examined
the evidence available to him
And his faith was active...he committed action to it...the the Lord spoke

The two accounts together

The centurion had

- compassion for others...love of others, the heart of God
- valued life as God values life
- great humility and meekness
- great reverence/fear/love...of the God of Israel
- great faith...Heb 11:1

Jesus Christ had

- Great compassion
- Great power and authority
- Great love

The centurions' reward due (Luke 7:3, 4) was due to faith "of" then "in" the One Who had the fullness of faith and both compassion and power/authority

God's Plan of Redemption...a plan of compassion and power

Eph 2:8-9

Rom 1:16-17

The teaching moment brought the SoM "to life"...by Jesus and the centurion from Capernaum

Beginning

Ch 5:3-8

End

Ch 7:21

Doing the will of My Father

- Believe on His Son
- Love the Lord, love others

As we field prayer requests for Charity, Jordan, Sienna, Bob...

- Do we have compassion and faith like the centurion of Capernaum?
- Are we empty of Self-esteem and filled with Jesus-esteem like the centurion?
- Do we understand the power and authority of Jesus Christ (all)?
- Do we go personally (can) and as ambassadors (intercessors)?
- Is Jesus Christ still looking for faith upon the earth?
- Is the Holy Spirit still keeping Jesus' appointment schedule and grasping every teaching moment?
- Do we really believe and are we teachable?
- Are we ambassadors for Jesus Christ?!

Let's gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...
to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

Closing Song