

**duplicating  
discipleship**

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● **lesson thirteen**

the faith and humility of the  
centurion

## Lesson 13: The Faith and Humility of the Centurion

Matthew 8:5-13

**"A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you." ~ C. S. Lewis**

**THE STORY** - Picture in this scenario, a clash of authorities. Jesus, authorized by God (Matthew: 28, Matthew 21:23-27, Matthew: 28:18) against the authority of the Roman government as represented by a Roman Centurion. The centurion was in charge of roughly 100 men and was usually committed to at least 20 years of service. He had a lot of authority and was generally not liked by the Jewish people.

**THE DILEMMA** - In this case, the centurion quickly came to the realization of the limits of his authority when he had a problem he couldn't fix. What are some problems that you cannot fix that cause you to turn toward the Lord?

What would have happened to the servant if the centurion's pride would have prevented him from approaching Jesus?

How many "others" (like the servant) have been blessed because someone else (like the centurion) exercised faith?

Have you ever missed out on something because of a failure to swallow your own pride?

He had no way of accomplishing what he wanted most—a healing. Before he could ask for help, he had to recognize he could not do it himself. How does this reflect your salvation experience?

**THE REACTIONS** - Roughly 100 soldiers may have witnessed their leader in an act of contrition and humility asking for help. Fear of what others may think sometimes controls our actions. What might the soldiers have thought if they witnessed this?

What are some words that might possibly be used to describe what the centurion was doing?

Desperate?

Foolish?

Superstitious?

Wise?

Others???

We are subject today to lots of authorities and sometimes they come into conflict. The centurion had to choose the greatest authority which required a lot of courage. What are some situations today when authorities under which we live come into conflict with the authority of God's word?

**THE SETTING** - Consider the part that prejudice plays (or does not play) in this story. The Roman authorities generally did not like the Jewish people so do you think the centurion had to overcome a bias or prejudice to approach Jesus?

Why did he not want Jesus to come into his house?

Are there certain “people” you would prefer not come into your house?

**GENTILE ACCEPTANCE** - How was Jesus comparing the centurion to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

If the soldiers had been aware of this incidence and talked it up among themselves, what impact do you think this story had on other gentiles in the area?

**GOD’S APPROVAL** - Can you name any place in scripture where Jesus gave such lavish praise as He did for the centurion?

What might the Jewish people in the accompanying crowd thought when a gentile was so praised?

What does the centurion’s compassion for his servant say about his character?

**IN CONCLUSION** - Consider that the final words of Jesus to the centurion are also spoken to us. “Let it be done to you as you have believed.” The centurion shows us that great faith accomplishes great things. What fruits or things in our lives are testifying as to the extent of our faith?

What words of God in the Scriptures can we count upon just because He said it?

(cf. John 5:24, Hebrews 13:5, Romans 8:1, Romans 8:38-39, Romans 8:28, etc)

How can our faith grow into a great faith?

(Cf. Romans 10:17, I Peter 1:7, James 2:5, Hebrews 12:1, I Tim 6:17-19, Mark 9:24)

**Modern Day example of Faith and Humility: Wade and Kim Holman**

The Holman's have served in the pastorate as well as foster parents to many children over the years. Facing the constant changes in the state's fostering system in working with the children, the Holman's continue to trust in the Lord to carry them through and to provide for their needs and the needs of the children. Whether it is seeking the Lord for another placement in their home or directing the ministry of the local food bank, they are examples of faith and a humble attitude that demonstrates the true marks of followers of Christ.

