



Luke 7:1-10

## In Matthew 14 is recorded Christ's response to Peter's faith after doing something remarkable

- Disciples crossing Sea of Galilee, a great storm come up, they struggle in the storm for about 6 hours and Jesus is on the shore watching
- Jesus is done praying and walks out to them on the water and the disciples think it is a ghost
- Peter thinks it is Jesus and says, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." And Jesus says, "Come"

## In Matthew 14 is recorded Christ's response to Peter's faith

- Peter gets out of the boat and walks upon the water toward Jesus until his brain kicks into gear and he realizes what he is doing is impossible
- His logic and faith begin to war, logic wins, and he begins to sink
- Jesus stretches out His hand and saves Peter then says to him, "Oh you of little faith. Why did you doubt?"

## In Matthew 14 is recorded Christ's response to Peter's faith

- What about the others in the boat, do they have miniscule faith?
- If Peter has little faith, what does great faith look like?
- We don't have to guess because Jesus gives us an illustration of great faith from a shocking person

- **Luke 7:1-10 NIV** 1 When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. 2 There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. 3 The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant.

- **Luke 7:1-10 NIV** 4 When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, 5 because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” 6 So Jesus went with them.

- **Luke 7:1-10 NIV** 6 He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. 7 That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

- **Luke 7:1-10 NIV** 9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” 10 Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.



## Luke chapter 6 contains Christ's discipleship manual as He taught with themes covering

- Loving your enemies, Judging others, A tree and its fruit, The Wise and Foolish Builders
- Luke chapters 7-9, Christ begins teaching by example, with our eyes
- He is answering the question, "What does a true disciple of Christ look like?"
- So, Christ's first lesson is an example of faith

## Luke chapter 6 contains Christ's discipleship manual as He taught with words covering

- **Hebrews 11:6 MSG** It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.

## Luke chapter 6 contains Christ's discipleship manual as He taught with words covering

- **Hebrews 11:1 NIV** Now faith is confidence (full trust) in what we hope for (looking forward to what God has promised) and assurance (full certainty) about what we do not see (coming but not yet seen).
- What God has promised and willed will certainly happen solely because God has promised and willed it and in this alone, I will rest

**To grasp the full meaning of these verses you need to know the characters and what is going on**

- Roman Centurion
  - Generally, a commander of at least 100 soldiers
  - Mostly Gentiles, some half Jews called Samaritans – both despised by the Jews
  - They were a symbol of Roman rule
  - Often abused their power and took unjust liberties

**To grasp the full meaning of these verses you need to know the characters and what is going on**

- Roman Centurion
  - He would be responsible for the oversight of Capernaum
  - He would have known about Jesus, maybe even witnessed His teaching and healing, how Jesus interacts with the different social levels of humanity

**To grasp the full meaning of these verses you need to know the characters and what is going on**

- Roman Centurion
  - He would have his men keeping an eye on Jesus and the people
  - This centurion was admired/held in high honor by the Jews he oversaw because of how he treated them

**To grasp the full meaning of these verses you need to know the characters and what is going on**

- **The Roman Centurion's Slave**
  - We read this Roman Centurion had a slave that was very dear to him – held in high honor or valued
  - This is unheard of at the time of Jesus
  - Roman writer, Varro, maintained that the only difference between a slave, a beast, and a cart was that the slave talked

**To grasp the full meaning of these verses you need to know the characters and what is going on**

- **The Roman Centurion's Slave**
  - We read he was deathly sick and about to die
  - Greek literally says he was “having it bad”
  - This is Luke the physician's profession diagnosis



# To grasp the full meaning of these verses you need to know the characters and what is going on

- The Roman Centurion's Slave
  - There are three things you never want to hear a doctor say
    - ❖ Oops!
    - ❖ Hmm...I've never seen that before
    - ❖ Oh, this is bad (Luke says this one)
  - **Matthew 8:6** indicates that the sickness caused paralysis and great torment

**To grasp the full meaning of these verses you need to know the characters and what is going on**

- The elders of the Jews
  - Here are Jews taking a command from a Roman Centurion and carrying it out quickly with great emotion
  - These were teachers in the synagogue and had ignored and rejected Jesus up to now – until they needed something from Him

**To grasp the full meaning of these verses you need to know the characters and what is going on**

- The elders of the Jews
  - They fell all over themselves trying to convince Jesus that this centurion was worthy of Jesus doing what was requested
  - They thought the answer to prayer was earned
  - God does not have a “naughty and nice” list

**To grasp the full meaning of these verses you need to know the characters and what is going on**

- The elders of the Jews
  - The prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much, not because the man is righteous and God listens to his prayers more, but because he knows how to pray according to God's will

**To grasp the full meaning of these verses you need to know the characters and what is going on**

- The elders of the Jews
  - We don't deserve anything
  - He gives it out of His generosity, goodness and grace
- There are three characteristics or things the Roman Centurion does that demonstrates or illustrates his great understanding of faith

## He approaches Jesus from a courteous, humble, and respectful heart

- The Jewish Elders tried to twist the arm of Jesus to make Him do what they wanted, but not the Roman Centurion
- **Vs. 6-7a NLT** 6 So Jesus went with them. But just before they arrived at the house, the officer sent some friends to say, “Lord, don’t trouble yourself by coming to my home, for I am not worthy of such an honor. 7 I am not even worthy to come and meet you.

## He approaches Jesus from a courteous, humble, and respectful heart

- Don't trouble yourself – Greek literally, “Do not skin yourself.”
  - Most historians think this is a bit of slang
  - Don't skin yourself while skinning your catch
- He recognizes that Jesus would be hurting himself by coming into a Gentile's home, considered unclean

## He approaches Jesus from a courteous, humble, and respectful heart

- Might harm Jesus' reputation or work in the Jewish community
- He cared for his servant and now he demonstrates he cares for the cultural and personal inhibitions Jesus might have as a Jewish Rabbi
- "I am not worthy of such an honor" – humility
- I'm not worthy to be in your presence much less you in my home



## He approaches Jesus with confidence

- He was convinced Jesus has the ability to do what he is asking Him to do
- **Vs. 7b NIV** But say the word, and my servant will be healed.
  - Literally, “Say the word, heal my servant.”
  - It is assertive, bold, powerful

## He approaches Jesus with confidence

- When you combine it with his humility, you see he is confident in the word of Jesus and not in his position
- The only way our prayers can be this powerful, this assertive, this confident is when we have a promise or word of God to pray
  - The promise must be rightly understood in context, you can't rip verses out of context to pray confidently

## He approaches Jesus with confidence

- But when we are convinced of the truth of Scriptural promises, we can pray those promises with this boldness, with this confidence, with this power
- Pray, “God, I am not worthy that you should come to me, or that I should come to you, but I was reading in your Word today and it said this. God, do what your Word says. Do it, because your Word says it.”
- So, how could this Roman centurion pray this confidently?

## His confidence springs from something he comprehends about Jesus

- **Vs 8 NIV** For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."
- He has a comprehension of power and authority and how it worked

## **His confidence springs from something he comprehends about Jesus**

- He understood something about Jesus no one else comprehended
- He understood Jesus has the authority to command and accomplish whatever comes from his mouth and it will be done
- His faith was in the authority of Jesus Christ

## His confidence springs from something he comprehends about Jesus

- **Matthew 28:18 NIV** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- What He commands will be done
- Do you believe this?
- Even the hard promises, the hard truths?

## The difference between great faith and little faith is not one of quantity

- Have you ever prayed for more faith or wished you had more faith? What did you mean?
- Great faith does not have lots and lots of faith, whereas little faith has hardly any
- It not about percentages and degrees of faith
- We are not faith containers that can hold overflowing faith or little faith

## The difference between great faith and little faith is not one of quantity

- Faith is confidence and persuasion in something God has said, and you are convinced of it
- You either believe something God said, or you don't
- Faith is like a switch that is on or off
  - There are no dimmer switches with faith
- You cannot believe 80% that there is a God
- If you are 99% sure, then you are not yet convinced



## The difference between great faith and little faith is not one of quantity

- It is that way with all the Word of God
- Great faith believes greater and more difficult truths than little faith
- Little faith may believe the simple promises
  - There is a God
  - Jesus gives eternal life to those who believe in Him

## The difference between great faith and little faith is not one of quantity

- Great faith believes in the advanced truths like
  - “God will supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory.”
  - Are you convinced of this?
  - Then why do you worry about tomorrow?

## His confidence springs from something he comprehends about Jesus

- **Hebrews 5:11-14 NLT** 11 There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. 12 You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word

## His confidence springs from something he comprehends about Jesus

- **Hebrews 5:11-14 NLT** 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. 14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

## Jesus is astonished with the centurion's faith even with his limited understanding of God's Word

- The centurion believed something very difficult to believe
- It was an advanced truth
- So what was it he believed?
  - That Jesus' word was sufficient
  - He did not have Jesus all figured out, but he knew His word was sufficient

## Abraham is our example of great faith

- **Romans 4:18-22 NLT** 18 Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” 19 And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb.

## Abraham is our example of great faith

- **Romans 4:18-22 NLT** 20 Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. 21 He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. 22 And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous.

## Abraham is our example of great faith

- Make your prayer this week like the man in **Mark 9:24**, “Lord, I do believe, help; my unbelief.”
- Praise God for the things you are convinced of
- Pray that God would help you believe the things you are not yet convinced of
- So, Jesus can marvel at your faith as well





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