

A Man of Great Faith

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

In **Luke 7:1-10**, here is the story of a man who had a great faith in Jesus. One thing that stands out to me is that he was not a Jew, but a Roman centurion. A lot of people then, like now, hated the Jews but this man loved the nation of Israel and had built a synagogue. He was a gentile who was different from most of the soldiers who occupied Israel.

This centurion had a servant who was sick and ready to die, or at the point of death. The servant was probably a Jew and most gentiles would not have worried about him. They would have been bothered that he was sick and not able to do his work. This man was concerned about the sick man because he cared about him as a person. I'm sure that he did all that he could to treat his illness with whatever resources that were available. Nothing helped and the man was getting worse.

The centurion heard of Jesus and became a believer. Just what he had heard and how we are not told. However he had heard of the miracles and

the words of life that Jesus spoke. He knew in his heart that here was someone who could help his servant and friend. Calling some of the Jewish elders he sent them to Jesus with the request to come and heal the sick servant. They went and said that this centurion was worthy of his help. They spoke of his love of Israel and the good that he had done. They too were friends of the centurion. I'm sure that there were few Roman centurions that could be called friend by any Jews.

When Jesus drew near to the home of the centurion he was met by other friends who were sent to him. The centurion, a man who was commander of 100 soldiers, humbled himself saying that he was not worthy that the Lord should come into his home. He said that all the Lord had to do was to say the word and the sick would be healed. He went on to explain his reasoning, showing his great faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

He pointed out that he gave orders to his servants and soldiers and that obeyed him. When he said "go" they went, or "come" and they would come. Whatever command he gave they obeyed because he was an officer in the Roman army and they respected the authority that he had. He was saying that this was somewhat like the power and authority that Jesus had.

As he could command men, Jesus could command sickness, or unclean spirits to go.

Isn't this amazing that a Roman soldier could have such faith in the Lord while the leadership of the Jews did not? I wonder just what he had heard about Jesus and did he hear the Lord himself, or what others said about him. Jesus turned to the crowd that followed and told them that he had not found such faith in Israel. He was pleased to hear someone claim such a belief in him whether it was a gentile or Jew. The servant was healed in response to this great faith.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." The centurion believed in God and that Jesus is the Son of God and he was not ashamed to show it before his soldiers, servants, and his friends. This is the kind of faith that gets help in the life of the believer. Real faith trusts God and lives the life that shows the faith. One thing is for certain, faith brings a blessing from God while doubt and disbelief keeps a person from the blessing and a relationship with God. I say it this way - Believe and receive, or doubt and do without.

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517 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

JACOB'S TOIL
LABAN HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND THE LITTLE GODS OF SILVER AND GOLD IN ANY OF JACOB'S TENTS... JACOB BERATES HIM FOR THE FALSE ACCUSATION, NOW...

FOR ALL THE YEARS I LABORED FOR THEE, THOU HAST TREATED ME UNKINDLY!

WHAT CAN I DO TO THEE WHO IS MY DAUGHTERS' HUSBAND - COME LISTEN TO MY WORDS!

LET US MAKE A COVENANT - I AND THOU!

GATHER STONES!

AND LABAN'S MEN AND JACOB'S MEN BUILD A HEAP OF STONES...

NOW LET THIS MOUND BE A WITNESS THAT NEITHER I NOR THOU SHALL IN ANY WISE DO HARM TO EACH OTHER!

AND FROM THIS DAY, JACOB HAS ATTAINED HIS POSITION AS A MAN OF MEANS, WITH LAND THAT IS HIS, WITH FLOCKS AND SERVANTS AND WITH CHILDREN - THE CHILDREN WHO SHALL SIRE THE FUTURE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

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