

Desperate People, Part II

August 4th, 2013

Luke 7:1-10

The Character of the Centurion

- ❖ Centurions were in command of a hundred men in the Roman army, and all the Centurions mentioned in the New Testament were men of character.

Luke 23:47 “Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, ‘Certainly this man was innocent!’”

Acts 10:1-2 “At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.”

Acts 27:43 “But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land,”

- ❖ This Centurion, in Luke 7, was a humane man who highly valued a certain servant who was dying.

- ♦ He was a humble man.
- ♦ He respected the Jews although they were a conquered people. “...he loves our nation, ...”
- ♦ He was a man who had faith. “...he is the one who built our synagogue.”
- ♦ He had never seen Jesus but had only heard about Him.

↳ Following Jesus’ resurrection, Jesus emphasized to Thomas the importance of responding in faith without personally seeing Him!

John 20:28-29 “Thomas answered Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”

The Humility of the Centurion

- ❖ The Jews thought that the Centurion was worthy of help from Jesus, but the Centurion did not think of himself as worthy!
 - ♦ The Centurion did not personally go to Jesus but sent elders of the Jews.
 - ♦ The Centurion then sent friends as Jesus approached his house.
- ❖ The Centurion did not flaunt his authority!
 - ♦ The Centurion did not feel worthy of Jesus coming to his house, perhaps because he was a Gentile, and did not presume that Jesus would help him.

The Faith of the Centurion

- ❖ The Centurion understood authority and knew the power of delegated authority. “...*I too am a man set under authority,...*”
- ❖ The Centurion was acknowledging Jesus’ authority over infirmities and knew that Jesus could heal his servant with a word!
- ❖ Jesus commended the Centurion for his faith!
 - ♦ Twice in the New Testament it states that Jesus marveled, once in regard to faith and at another time in regard to unbelief.
 - Mark 6:6 “And He marveled because of their unbelief. ...”*
 - Luke 7:9 “When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him ... ‘I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.’”*
- ❖ Jesus prepared the hearts of His disciples to see God’s power moving among the Gentiles with His statement, “*I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.*”
- ❖ The servant was healed!

Faith and Humility are inseparable!

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:6

Endnote:

- ♦ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.