

## HEALING OF THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

**TEXT:** *Matthew 8:5a: And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a centurion, beseeching Him . . .*

The Centurion, a Roman Army Captain stationed at Capernaum, saw Jesus not as many see Him today, or as tradition describes Him, but as the miracle worker, healer, and preacher of deliverance. He saw Him as one who is not against anybody. He wasn't against the Jews, Greeks, Romans, but only against sin, self-righteousness, disease or sickness, and satan and demons – that's all.

The Centurion was so impressed by Jesus that he risked court-martial to bow at His feet. He saw Jesus as more than a man, with power above all power, and authority above all authority. So when his trusted servant fell deathly ill of the palsy and was grievously tormented, and the Emperor's physician pronounced the disease as incurable by medical power, the Centurion made a beeline for Jesus.



When the Captain decided to go to Jesus and ask Him to heal his servant, he knew he was doing a dangerous thing. The Romans hated the Jews, thus endangering him of losing his command or being ridiculed. He called Jesus "Lord". Probably he had never called any man Lord before, but Caesar. He had never bowed to any power except Rome's power. What a spectacle!

This is:



- force bowing to meekness,
- armed might before the unarmed,
- the uniform of war before the seamless robe,
- the proud eagle of Rome biting the dust before the Lamb of God
- the proud, rude, rough man saying, "Lord",
- the transforming of a man's allegiance from man to God.

There in the streets of Capernaum, in broad open daylight, the Centurion's faith in Jesus is stronger than all difficulties.

***Matthew 8:8b: Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.***

He believed that if Jesus would speak the word, his servant would be healed. What faith! He got what he believed for. His believing astonished Jesus and thrilled Him. Jesus said, as recorded in:

***Matthew 8:10b: I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.***

The Centurion's faith and kind of believing is what Jesus says is great faith. What the Centurion did in the long ago can be done today. It is the belief of many that if they had only lived in Jesus' time, they would be healed. You would have been healed only if you believed. That was the master key to healing then and also today.

There is no substitute for one's own believing. Jesus made no effort to heal the servant until the Centurion made Jesus Lord. Then Jesus said, as recorded in ***Matthew 8:7b: I will come and heal him.***

This kind of believing and surrender moved Jesus to immediate action. This is the true condition of heart that saves from sin. Humility is coming forth from the new created heart. "Jesus, I am not worthy." The greatest miracle in the world, salvation, coming by faith in Jesus and making Him Lord and Master of your life, then He is Lord and Master of every situation in your life.

You must put first things first. When Jesus is put first in your life, then, your believing is right and your walk is right according to your believing. Jesus loves you and is willing and waiting and longing to make you His child, and to give you a home in Heaven. He is waiting for you to make up your mind to make Him your Saviour.

The Centurion believed Jesus had power and authority over sickness and disease. For the first time, Jesus finds a man who recognizes His authority and power over sickness. Jesus turned to the crowd and said, as recorded in ***Matthew 8:10:***

***Verily I say unto you I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.***

Jesus is declaring that the recognition of His power and authority is great faith. Up to this time many of those with blind hearts said, as recorded:



**Luke 11:15: But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.**

They had not turned their hearts to Him for cleansing; and the devil, that old liar, was deceiving them to their own destruction — the committing of the unpardonable sin.

**Matthew 12:31: Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven unto men.**

For they failed to recognize that the miracles of healing He wrought upon the sick and afflicted were of God who gave Him the authority and power. They declared it was of the devil.

For that reason, Jesus said, as recorded in:

**Matthew 8:12: But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

Jesus meant that those who deny His power and authority over sickness and disease, blind themselves to what God can do for them. As a result, they are filled with a lost hope because they believe wrongly.

This centurion had the power of the Roman Empire behind him to reinforce his commands, and by faith in Jesus he now recognizes that Jesus has the power and authority of Heaven behind Him, and earth, also. Therefore, in **Matthew 8:8b:**

***The centurion answered and said, Lord,... Speak the word only."***

This is something he asked Jesus to do to help him release his faith. If Jesus would speak the word, He would make that the point of contact. This point of contact is where your faith makes contact with God's power. Any point, whether word spoken, a touch, is important for it sets the time and is the point of expectation for your healing.

A beautiful example of this is the woman who had the issue of blood. Touching His clothes did not heal her, but was the point of contact. It was Jesus who healed her, not His clothes. She touched Him by faith.



**Luke 8:46: And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched Me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of Me.**

She felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

When she released her faith, Jesus released His Power. This is actually a double point of contact. Something went out of her and something went out of Him — her faith and His Power. Jesus said in:

***Mark 5:34: Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.***

Since there are many people who want God to heal them regardless of their own believing, they are often left disappointed and unhealed. To them, healing is a kind of magic. The reason that many are not healed is because they do not understand how to believe right.

It is important to know how to be healed. This Centurion first believed Jesus to be his Saviour, and made Him Lord. This Centurion then recognized the power and authority of Jesus over sickness and disease. Third, he made the spoken word of Jesus his point of contact. After he made the three steps, Jesus turned directly to him and said, as recorded in ***Matthew 8:13:***

**The reason that many are not healed is because they do not understand how to believe right.**

***As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.***

The Bible states the servant was healed in the self same hour.

When he believed the Bible WORD, not some ritual ceremony of magic formula performed, not just through his thinking, but when he believed, his believing was responsible for the servant's healing. His believing was his thoughts brought to a climax. He believed Jesus to be Lord and that He heals by authority by God. That is, Jesus would only speak the Word and his servant would be healed.

His believing did what Jesus told him it would do, and what he believed it would do. Do not underestimate your faith. There is no substitute for it. When you believe the same way the Centurion did, you are healed, also.

Great faith surmounts all difficulties, criticism, misunderstanding, and hindrances of peoples' discouragements — even your friends. Look at what people went through in the Bible.

***Matthew 15:22: And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.***

Great faith refuses to be discouraged, never takes “no” for the answer, will not quit, and will fight its way through to the Lord for deliverance and get results.

**Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center**

**[www.AkronShalomMinistries.org](http://www.AkronShalomMinistries.org)**