

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

SUCH A FAITH

Luke 7:9 “. . .He (Jesus) marveled at him (the centurion), and turning to the crowd that followed Him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.” (Read Luke 7:1-10)

As you read the dialog in these ten verses, a lot of emphasis is placed upon who the person is who is in need of having Jesus perform a healing miracle. If anyone deserved Jesus to respond to the urgent request of the Centurion, in the eyes of the Jewish crowd he did. “They came to Jesus, they pleaded earnest with Him, ‘This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.’”

The Centurion approached Jesus in a totally different manner. “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.” The centurion was a gentile and he knew that no righteous Jew would enter a gentile home. He didn’t want Jesus to become unclean. Instead, the centurion said to Jesus, “say the word and my servant will be healed.”

Only twice do the Scriptures record Jesus praising the faith of an individual in connection with His performance of a miracle in their behalf. He did so here regarding the centurion and the other time was in the case of a Canaanite woman. In both instances Jesus commended the faith, the trusting dependence upon Him. In both instances Jesus has nothing to say about the character, the good deeds or good community standing as the basis for His healing miracle. Rather, Jesus pointed out their faith.

In the case of the centurion, he said to Jesus “. . . for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.” The centurion had complete faith in the power of Jesus’ word. He believed all Jesus had to do was tell his servant to become well and it would be an accomplished fact. Indeed, that is exactly what happened.

Jesus said, "All authority (power) has been given to me in heaven and on earth. . . ." (Matthew 20:18) The authority Jesus demonstrated to the centurion and the Canaanite woman is the authority He possesses and expends your behalf today and to the end of the age. Jesus' word to you is, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) You have Jesus' word!

Prayer: Grant unto me, dear Jesus, faith to trust You and Your word. In Your holy name. Amen.

From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and tribulation;
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me, Lord, hear my supplication;
If Thou rememb'rest ev'ry sin, Who then could heaven ever win
Or stand before Thy presence?

Thy love and grace alone avail To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail To break sin's dread oppression.
Before Thee none can boasting stand, But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy.

Therefore my hope is in the Lord And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word To them of contrite spirit
That He is merciful and just; This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.

And though it tarry through the night And till the morning waken,
My heart shall never doubt His might Nor count itself forsaken.
O Israel, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spirit and the Word,
Now wait for His appearing.

Though great our sins, yet greater still Is God's abundant favor;
His hand of mercy never will Abandon us, nor waver.
Our shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow.
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