
THE PAIN OF THE CENTURION AND HIS SERVANT | VV. 5-6

- A centurion is a *hekatontarchos*, or “the leader of 100.”
- This particular centurion loved the nation of Israel and the Jewish people – Luke 7:4-5.
- The Centurion’s servant was experiencing a terribly violent ailment which appears to have come upon him suddenly.
 - “Lieth” is literally “thrown down.” See Matthew 3:10, compared to the usual word for “lying” in Mark 2:4.
 - He was “grievously tormented.” **Grievously** comes from *deos* from which we get *hideous*. The root word is used in Mt. 8:26 and Jn 14:27 as well as 2 Tim 1:7.
 - He was “tormented.” The word *basanos* is used of the touchstone to test Gold, and, in the sense of a test to reveal the truth, had become a word which meant “torture device.”

THE WILLINGNESS OF JESUS | V. 7

- There was plenty of evidence for the Centurion of Jesus’ willingness, yet also plenty for him to doubt, beginning with his Gentile heritage and Roman employment.
- We must take care that we do not assume on the Lord’s willingness. To do so may be comforting, but can be of tremendous disappointment.

THE FAITH THAT MARVELED JESUS | VV. 8-10

- The Centurion did not have a false humility when he said, “I am not worthy.” Rather, he displayed great respect for Jesus, knowing that Rabbinical Law would not allow Jesus to go to his home.
- The Centurion displays the faith that the actual presence of the Lord is not necessary.
- The Centurion trusted that the “word alone” was sufficient for the healing power of Jesus.
- This faith caused Jesus to “marvel.” The word *thumazo* is related to *theatron* (a place of wonders), from which we get *theater*.

THE PROPHETIC REMINDER FROM JESUS | VV. 11-12

- This is not so much a prophecy of Jesus as it is a reminder of previous prophecies. From the beginning of the Abrahamic covenant, “all the families of the earth” were included in the Kingdom/Messianic promises.
- The consistency of this promise in the Hebrew Scriptures makes it an impossible proposition to say here that Christ was predicting the church. See Gen 12:3, 22:18, 28:14, 49:10, Psalm 98:3, Is 2:2-3, 11:10, etc.
- This prophecy has not been fulfilled. We do not “recline at the table with Abraham...” today. This is a Kingdom prophecy awaiting a Kingdom fulfillment.
- The “sons of the Kingdom” is Israel. In Mt. 13:38 these sons are the wheat (versus the tares). If the sons will both be “cast out into the outer darkness” and will receive the Kingdom (Mt. 13), then “outer darkness” must be a state of dis fellowship with God, not a place of eternal punishment (Hell).

THE HEALING OF THE SERVANT | V. 13

- The Centurion’s faith was rewarded “in that very hour,” and the servant was healed.