

## The Great Physician

### Luke 7:1-10

- Jesus has just spoken to His disciples about the importance of being a spiritual hearer of God's Word and not just someone who hears in the natural but is not moved to act in the spiritual. Which is why He used the example of people despite having eyes to see, but yet are still blind, and instead of getting help for their blindness, they continue with impaired vision attempting to lead others down the path of life only to end up in a ditch both the leader and follower.
- In **Lk 6:47** Jesus ended with **"whoever comes to Him and hears His teachings and then does them, they will be as someone who builds a house with a sturdy foundation, and no matter how strong a storm they find themselves up against, that house that is built upon Jesus and His Word will continue to stand"**. In Chapter 7 we see how necessary the promise that Jesus just made truly is, as Jesus is going to be confronted with **"a dying servant"**, **"a grieving widow"**, **"a perplexed Prophet"**, and **"a repentant sinner"**, all in need of the help Jesus just promised.

#### V1-10

- **V1-5** the first person we see that is in need is **"a dying servant"** typically this man in the eyes of the Jews had three things working against him > **1<sup>st</sup>** he was a servant, **2<sup>nd</sup>** his master was a gentile, **3<sup>rd</sup>** he worked for a Roman employer, any one of these things would keep him from getting the necessary help that he needed, and from a Jewish perspective they would have thought he deserved to die. But because of the character of the servants boss the Centurion the Jewish leaders made an exception because he has shown that he loved the Jewish people.
- Its amazing what love can do, natural barriers can come crashing down all because someone acted in love instead of anger or hate. I can't stress this enough how much the Jews hated the Roman Empire, they already thought that Gentiles had one purpose only and that was to fuel the fires of hell, and any soldier who drew an assignment in Judea saw that as bad duty, because there was always some uprisings to put down, or riot, violence, against Roman citizens.
- Yet we read that this man not only loved and helped the Jewish people but was responsible for building them a Synagogue, I don't know about you but I have a hard time befriending folks that think y sole purpose in life was to be **started logs for Hell**. But because of his love for them they care about him, telling Jesus that this one was different and that he was deserving of His healing. Its interesting that the Jews thought him worthy but he didn't think that of himself, which is why he went to the elders instead of requesting a personal meeting with Jesus himself.
- Mathews account says he did come to Jesus but Luke's account is a more fuller version as he had the Jewish leaders come on his behalf because he didn't want Jesus reputation to become sullied because of him, and we see that in these next few verses. **V6-8** to meet with, touch or enter a gentile's house was seen by the Jews of making oneself ceremonially unclean, which in turn would have disqualified Jesus from teaching or speaking anymore in their Synagogue's.

- Which is why I believe Luke's account of the Centurion sending the Jewish leaders to meet with Jesus and ask whether He would heal his servant rather than come himself. Notice he didn't even want Jesus to come to his house but instead sent his Jewish friends to ask Jesus if he would simply "**Just speak the Word, and his servant would be healed**". Not only do we see **strong faith**, but you can't help but also see **great humility**, as they go hand in hand.
- The elders said "He was worthy" he said (**He was not worthy**) "they praised him for building a house of worship" he felt (**unworthy that Jesus would come to his house**), "they said "he was deserving" he felt (**undeserving**), again strong faith and great humility. Also the Centurion understood the chain of command, how the orders of one in authority could be carried out whether they were there in person or not, as it is the position of the person who is giving the order and not the physical presence that determines the power behind the request.
- **V9-10** Jesus response is remarkable in that He only was amazed like this two times in scripture, here, as He "**Marveled**" amazed at this man's faith, a faith He had been looking to find in the Jewish community but hadn't. The other time was **Mk 6:2-6** when Jesus returning to the area where He grew up was met with scoffing and insults causing Him to not bless the people with healing and miracles. Jesus response to this was that he was "**amazed**" at the Jews unbelief.
- As I read these two accounts it shows how we can either "**amaze**" The Lord by our complete trust in Him, or with our defiance towards Him. How we look at the Lord often is dependent upon how we treat others, we can see clearly that not only does this Roman Centurion fear the Lord but that he has compassion on the lowly, those for whom he rules he cares for them.
- **Lk 5:32-** Jesus said "**He hadn't come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance**" although this man is someone who is above the people whom he is asking for help from, he sees himself as a servant and not as a master. This is why this man's faith has touched others and is now helping his servant to get the healing that he needs. Folks is your faith touching others, to the point that those whom you meet can say your life represents healing in a world surrounded by hurt.