

## Humility

### A Picture of Humility

#### About centurions at the time of Jesus

*Leader of 100 men. Soldiers, mercenaries, or police.*

*Paid 3750 to 7500 denarii per year!*

*Centurions were not highly regarded in Israel.*

#### The dangers of power and wealth

#### This centurion was different

*Viewed as worthy of Jesus’ concern*

*Built the local synagogue*

*Loved the nation of Israel*

*Did not approach Jesus out of a sense of unworthiness*

### A Posture of Faith

#### What does the centurion see about Jesus?

*A man under authority, with men under him*

*What type of authority? God’s authority!*

True faith should always create real humility

*The centurion is powerful because he is established by Rome*

*Jesus is powerful because he is established by God*

*The centurion knows exactly where his power ends, and where God alone can help*

God is the best recipe for humility

### **The Power of Jesus**

Faith that reverses the power of death

*Not just for himself, but for others*

Humble faith comes with great reward

James 4:10      Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

1 Peter 5:6      Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.

Prov. 3:34      Toward the scornful he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.

Prov. 22:4      The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.

Prov. 18:12      Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

Matt. 23:12      Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Luke 14:11      For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Luke 18:14      For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

### **Questions for Personal Study**

1. What is humility? Is humility thinking less of yourself, or thinking of yourself less?
2. Describe a Roman centurion in terms of status, wealth, etc. Would someone like that naturally be humble?
3. Why should knowing God personally create a humble heart within us?
4. The centurion's humble faith was used for the good of his slave. Why does a humble person look out for others?
5. In your experience... what are the dangers of pride? What are the benefits of humility?