

Church School Lesson: "Faith of a Centurion" Lesson Text: Luke 7:1-10 Key Text: "That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you." But say the word, and my servant will be healed." Luke 7:7

## Summary of the Lesson

Jesus' ministry of teaching and healing moved from place to place. Without the modern advantage of telephone, television or social media. His whereabouts always spread quickly. For some it was the desperate need to get to Jesus and His healing power. For others, it was just curiosity. But what of those for whom the physical distance between them and Jesus was too great? The Scripture tells us about a centurion who had a servant who "was sick and about to die." Jesus moved His ministry to Capernaum. There is a synagogue there but also it is a Roman outpost. The centurion spoken of in the Scripture is a Roman military officer. The servant spoken of in the Scripture is one in the centurion's personal household. The servant is deathly ill, and the centurion is worried enough about him that he "sent some elders of the Jews to Him, asking Him to come and heal his servant." Yes, he'd heard about Jesus! Who hadn't? It would have been risky for him to try to contact Jesus himself because of prevailing cultural and ethnic issues. But he was smart enough to reach out to the Jewish leaders in the community who went to Jesus on his behalf, intercession. I'm sure most of you remember Mother Wilcox, whose ministry included intercessory prayer, not only for folks in our church, but folks in her community as well. What the intercessors said to Jesus tells us more about the kind of man the centurion was. They said, "this man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." The synagogue (church) was very important to the Jewish people. It was the gathering place for teaching, as well as worship. I believe it can be said that this centurion was a Gentile in category but also one who seemed to fear (respect) God. The Jewish leaders sent to Jesus acted as a go-between the centurion and Jesus. I was downstairs at church one Sunday after service and a young lady approached me asking where she could get free tax filing services. Because she lived in a community outside Philadelphia County, I was able to get information for her from the people who live in her community. Intercession means connecting resources to those in need. In the case of the centurion, it meant having someone acting on his behalf, connecting Jesus to the deathly ill servant. Without realizing it, I'm sure that we intercede on others' behalf all time. Have you ever helped someone find a job? Have you ever written a recommendation letter for someone for college admission? You may have been asked to be a character witness for someone seeking office. It is not surprising that Jesus agreed to go to the centurion's house. He knows not only the hearts of the Jewish leaders making intercession, but He also know the heart of the centurion and the humility of the centurion is striking. He says, "I did not consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word and my servant will be healed." Yes, the centurion had authority over soldiers and servants under him, but he also recognized the power and authority that Jesus had over all things, including sickness. "Jesus said, "I tell you; I have not found such great faith even in Israel." When the men returned home, they found the servant well. Remember the faith of the centurion when we offer prayer for our sick family member or friend. Can we demonstrate the "Centurion Faith" that God will answer our prayer? It is more than a "hope so" or "maybe". The Scripture tells us "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." What do you do when God does not answer your prayers in the way you want or expect? Pray always for God's presence in our lives. Pray always for a simple centurion faith that doesn't doubt. Pray always for healing, not only physically but also spiritually. Amen.

Sunday Worship Webinar: https://zoom.us/j/93197056304 -

Webinar ID: 931 9705 6304 - Dial in +1 (646) 931-3860 - Then dial 931 9705 6304 # Bible Study, Meetings, Church School & Special Services - Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/99882887220 -Meeting ID: 998 8288 7220 Mobile +1 (301) 715-8592 then dial 998 8288 7220# passcode 1505

Zoom Bible Study New Passcode - 1505

ANNOUNCEMENTS <u>"Virtual Bible Study"</u> Tuesdays @ 7:30PM All are Welcome.

TODAY- The Stewardess Board will meet after the morning service.

In Person Church School @ 9:00 a.m. every 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. All are welcome.

Sun., Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> – "Evangelism Day" more info to come.

Sun., May 12<sup>th</sup> is "Mother's Day" please bring a family group picture that will be posted on the board in Sewell Hall. Please give the picture to Sis. Goodman or Sis. Deb Roberts. She would like all pictures by Sun., May 5th. "The Church Campaign" has begun, all members are asked to give \$100 in support of the Ministry.





"Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence." Psalm 91:3 NKJV

# \*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 24

L: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it! From the east to the west, from the north to the south, God's Spirit moves across the face of the earth. From the east to the west, from the north to the south, P: We gather together, united by God's Spirit, to celebrate God's glory and proclaim His praise!

All: Let's worship God together!

#### **OPENING HYMN** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

1) What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in praver!

3) Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge-take it to the Lord in prayer! Do your friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there."

# **\*PRAYER**

# **\*PRAYER RESPONSE**

## WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

DECLARATION **Brother Robert Love -** This is my Bible. I am what it says I am. I can have what it says I can have. I can do what it says I can do. Today I will be taught the word of God. My mind is alert. My heart is receptive. I'll never be the same again. In Jesus' name. Amen

## **\*READING OF THE WILL**

Old Testament Exodus 17:8-16 New Testament 1st Peter 4:12-16 The Gospel John 16:5-15

\*DECALOGUE "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

Gloria Patri – "Glory Be To The Father"

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC \*SERMON

INVITATIONAL

Rev. Dr. Louis P. Attles, Pastor

**GIVING OF OUR TITHES/OFFERING** 

Cashapp - https://cash.app/\$LaMottAMEChurch

Or Text the word: lamottame -1888-364-4483(give)follow link You Can Also Drop off your Envelope or Mail

THE PASTOR'S WORD/ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITION OF VISITORS BENEDICTION "Reach out and Touch Somebody's Hand"

Request

\*WORSHIPPERS Are Asked To Refrain From Entering In The Sanctuary at These Times.

Evangelist Ernestine Johnson's Mother-in-Law, Sis. Barbara Johnson, Sis. Natasha Patterson's Aunt Doreen Black, Sis. Mary English, Sis. Lil Mellerson, Sis. Linda Floyd's Sis. in Christ, Toya Johnson, Sis. Virginia Braxton, Sis. of Sis. Jackie Sewell, Sis. Maggie Bullard, Family Healing and Unity, Bro. Leroy Williams, husband of Sis. Debbie Williams, Sis. O'Jetta Croswell's Brother - Brewington W. Croswell ESQ, and her Sister Dr. Elva L. Croswell, Sis. Lottie Chisholm's mother, Lula King, Rev., Dr. & Mrs. Melvin D. Wayns, Sis. Deb Williams' Mom & Dad, family members and friends who are sick and have lost loved ones. Birthdays or Anniversaries in April.



April

Deborah Williams 6<sup>th</sup> Alyssa Ruth Ridley 24<sup>th</sup> - AAA

O'Jetta Croswell Jacob Manley

11<sup>th</sup> Khari Jefferson Sis. Kelly Attles 27<sup>th</sup>

17th Roy Moore 19<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>