

Interrupting Jesus

Matthew 8:5-13

The Authority of Jesus and the Faith of a Centurion

- **Compassion for others moves us to act boldly. (v. 5-7)**
- **The centurion was moved by compassion.**
 - **His compassion was “unnatural.”**
 - **His compassion gave him courage.**
- **Comprehension of the authority of Jesus leads us to trust deeply. (v. 8-10)**
- **Jesus asks the centurion a question to push him to acknowledge a deep truth about Jesus (Shall I myself come and heal him?).**
 - **The centurion says that he is unworthy (hikanos), which reveals this man’s sense of unworthiness in relation to Jesus’ authority.**
 - **The centurion is able to see what no one else in Israel (which would include his own disciples) is able to see.**
- **Confidence in Jesus gives us fellowship with him. (v. 11-13)**
- **Jesus commends the faith of the centurion and explains that his faith has given him access to a very special table.**
 - **This table was believed to be only for the “sons of the kingdom,” which many Jews took to mean only devout Jews.**
 - **In granting the Gentile centurion access to the table, Jesus is showing that faith is what ultimately provides people a way to fellowship with God.**