

Compassion in action!

“I am not worthy ” was the centurion’s confession of humility; and his confession of faith was, “Say the word! ” It is great faith when we trust Christ to work just by speaking the Word. We can never deserve His blessings, but we can ask for them in faith.

Compassion has been defined as “your pain in my heart.” What pain our Lord must have felt as He ministered from place to place! In this chapter alone, Jesus is confronted with the miseries of a dying servant, a grieving widow, a perplexed prophet, and a repentant sinner, and He helped them all. If a “hard- ship committee” had been asked to decide which of these persons was “deserving,” we wonder who would have been chosen.

Jesus helped them all, because compassion does not measure: it ministers. Bernard of Clairvaux said, “Justice seeks out only the merits of the case, but pity only regards the need.” It was compassion, not justice, that motivated the Great Physician who came “not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32).

In the Gospels and the book of Acts, Roman centurions are presented as quality men of character, and this one is a sterling example. The Jewish elders had little love for the Romans in general and Roman soldiers in particular, and yet the elders commended this officer to Jesus. He loved the Jewish people in Capernaum and even built them a synagogue. He loved his servant and did not want him to die. This centurion was not a Stoic who insulated himself from the pain of others. He had a heart of concern, even for his lowly servant boy who was dying from a paralyzing disease (Matt. 8:6). Matthew’s condensed report (Matt. 8:5–13) does not contradict Luke’s fuller account. The centurion’s friends represented him to Jesus and then represented Jesus to him. When a newscaster reports that the president or the prime minister said something to Congress or Parliament, this does not necessarily mean that the message was delivered by them in person. It was probably delivered by one of their official representatives, but the message would be received as from the president or prime minister personally. We are impressed not only with this man’s great love, but also his great humility. Imagine a Roman officer telling a poor Jewish rabbi that he was unworthy to have Him enter his house! The Romans were not known for displaying humility, especially before their Jewish subjects. But the characteristic that most impressed Jesus was the man’s faith. Twice in the gospel record we are told that Jesus marveled. Here in Capernaum, He marveled at the faith of a Gentile; and in Nazareth, He marveled at the unbelief of the Jews (Mark 6:6). The only other person Jesus commended for having “great faith” was a Gentile woman whose daughter He delivered from a demon (Matt. 15:28). It is worth noting that in both of these instances, Jesus healed at a distance (see Ps. 107:20; Eph. 2:11–13).

The centurion’s faith certainly was remarkable. After all, he was a Gentile whose background was pagan. He was a Roman soldier, trained to be self-sufficient, and we have no evidence that he had ever heard Jesus preach. Perhaps he heard about Jesus’ healing power from the nobleman whose son Jesus had healed, also at a distance (John 4:46–54). His soldiers may also have brought him reports of the miracles Jesus had performed, for the Romans kept close touch with the events in Jewish life. The important word in Luke 7:8 is “also.” (It should be in Matt. 8:9 as well, but the KJV omits it for some reason. The NASB has “too” in both places.) The officer saw a parallel between the way he commanded his soldiers and the way Jesus commanded diseases. Both the centurion and Jesus were under authority, and because they were under authority, they had the right to exercise authority. All they had to do was say the word and things happened. What tremendous faith this man exhibited! No wonder Jesus marveled. If this Roman, with very little spiritual instruction, had that kind of faith in God’s Word, how much greater our faith ought to be! We have an entire Bible to read and study, as well as nearly two thousand years of church history to encourage us, and yet we are guilty of “no faith” (Mark 4:40) or “little faith” (Matt. 14:31). Our prayer ought to be, “Lord, increase our faith!” (Luke 17:5). (barzilaiendan.com)

Joi (7pm) Midweek service

2	Iulian J.	Reacții când vine necazul	Estera 4
9	Pavel P.	Când Dumnezeu îți face trecere	Estera 5
16	Dan S.	Când Dumnezeu nu dă odihnă	Estera 6
23	Cornel S.	Răul va fi extirpat!	Estera 7
30	Moise Z.	Întristarea prefăcută în bucurie	Estera 8

Mai - Mai plin de Duhul Sfânt!

Duminică, 5	Psalmul 96	<i>Cina Domnului</i>
10am: îndemn	Richard P. mesaj Iulian J.	<i>Până va veni El</i> 1 Corinteni 11:26
5pm: îndemn	Andrei L. mesaj Adrian P.	<i>Courage is contagious!</i> 2 Samuel 23:8-39

Duminică, 12	Psalmul 97	<i>Ziua mamei</i>
10am: îndemn	Danny P. mesaj Pavel P.	<i>O femeie cinstită</i> Proverbe 31:10-31
5pm: îndemn	Florin C. mesaj Richard P.	<i>The Prophetess Deborah</i> Judges 4:1-16

Sâmbătă, 18 ora 10am Conferință pt familii, Cornel Avram, Familia biblică vs Familia modernă
ora 6pm Slujbă, invitat Cornel Avram, Happy Valley Phoenix, AZ

Duminică, 19	Psalmul 98	<i>Ziua Cincizecimii</i>
10am: îndemn	Cornel S. mesaj Dan S.	<i>Pogorârea Duhului Sfânt</i> Fapte 2:1-11
5pm: îndemn	Sami Herman Jr. mesaj Iulian J.	<i>Părtășia prin Duhul Sfânt</i> Fapte 2:41-47

Duminică, 19 *Wedding Maximus Filip & Olivia Gherasim* (nunta începe la ora 1pm)
 Religious Service & Reception at The Icon, 200 Walker St. Detroit MI

Duminică, 26 Memorial Weekend - No services

A Few Hints to Preachers, Pentecostal Evangel, 27 January 1917, page 7

„Make no apologies. If you have the Lord’s message, deliver it. If not, hold your peace. Have short preface or introduction. Say your best things first and stop before you get prosy. Do not spoil the appetite for dinner by too much thin soup. Leave self out of the pulpit and take Jesus in. It takes a cold hammer to bend a hot iron. Heat up the people, but keep the hammer cold. Do not bawl and scream. Too much water stops mill-wheels, and too much noise drowns sense. Empty vessels ring loudest. Powder isn’t shot. Thunder isn’t lightning. Lightning kills. If you have lightning, you can afford to thunder, but do not try to thunder out of an empty cloud.”