

**Conversations with Jesus : The Centurion's Faith** a message for the  
**Abundant Life Class** at Gulf Coast Baptist Church by Steve Thomas  
5-17-26

**Introduction**

Matthew and Luke give us an account of Jesus interacting with a Roman centurion. The healing of the centurion's servant is one of the few interactions with a Gentile that the gospels record. In this passage, we do not simply see what Jesus can do; we hear what Jesus says. As we have seen in other conversations, what Jesus says is important. How he speaks to individuals is never flippant, but always intentional. Every sentence reveals His compassion, His authority, His gospel purpose, and His perfect knowledge of the human heart. **Matthew 8:5–13 Luke 7:1–10**

Matthew tells us the centurion came and spoke to Christ. Luke tells us the centurion sent elders first, and then friends with his message. There is no contradiction. In ordinary speech, a man may be said to do what he does through his messengers. Matthew gives us the substance of the encounter; Luke gives us the fuller detail. Together they show us a Gentile soldier with a burdened heart, a dying servant, and a Savior whose word carries all authority. **Matthew 8:5–6 Luke 7:2–6**

**I. Jesus Says, “I will come and heal him.” - His words reveal \_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_.

In Matthew 8:7, after hearing the centurion's plea, “Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented,” Jesus answers immediately: “**I will come and heal him.**” Jesus's \_\_\_\_\_ is agreement and a willingness to sacrifice for this stranger.

Why does Jesus say this?

**II. The Centurion Answers, and Jesus Hears Real Faith - The man's humility prepares the way for Christ's public commendation**

The centurion's response is one of the most beautiful statements of \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture: “**Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.**” Luke adds, “**Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee.**” This man had rank, power, discipline, and the respect of the Jews; yet in the presence of Christ he says, “I am not worthy.” **Matthew 8:8 Luke 7:6–7**

Then the centurion explains his reasoning: “**For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me...**” He understands chains of command. He knows that true authority does not need frantic display. A commander does not personally perform every task. He gives the word, and it is done. The centurion sees in Jesus not merely a healer, but a \_\_\_\_\_. **Matthew 8:9 Luke 7:8**

**III. Jesus Says, “I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.”- His words reveal what kind of faith He \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. This \_\_\_\_\_ humble faith.
- B. It also teaches that \_\_\_\_\_ must rest upon His \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. He is also \_\_\_\_\_ unbelief among the privileged.

**IV. Jesus Says, “Many shall come from the east and west...” - His words reveal the gospel’s reach and religion’s danger**

- A. The centurion is a preview of the Gentile \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. He reveals that there should be no \_\_\_\_\_ in religious privilege.
- C. Jesus’s words \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**V. Jesus Says, “Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.” - His words reveal sovereign power exercised through faith**

Finally, Jesus says to the centurion, **“Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.”** Matthew adds, **“And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.”** Luke says when the messengers returned, **“they... found the servant whole that had been sick.”** Matthew 8:13 Luke 7:10 Why does Jesus say it this way?

- A. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ the man’s faith.
- B. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ His authority.
- C. These words also can \_\_\_\_\_ future believers.

**VI. Practical Application - What should we do with this text?**

### **Conclusion**

The great wonder of this passage is not only that a servant was healed. It is that Jesus used the moment to preach with His own words. He said, **“I will come and heal him.”** That shows His compassion. He said, **“I have not found so great faith.”** That shows what He honors. He said, **“Many shall come from the east and west.”** That shows the reach of His kingdom. He said, **“Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.”** That shows the power of His word. Matthew 8:7,10–13

So the call of the text is plain: do not trust your worthiness; trust Christ’s authority. Do not rest in religion; rest in the Savior. Do not marvel merely at the miracle; Jesus was offering a kingdom and deserved these people’s obeisance.

And if you will come to Him as this centurion came—humbly, reverently, believingly—you will find that Jesus Christ is still mighty to save. God is nigh to those of a contrite spirit.