

WORD OF AUTHORITY - Luke 7:1-10

Today we are going to talk about the “voice,” not the NBC show but the eternal voice of God, able to speak life where death once reigned! Someone asked me the other day, “What did I attribute the racial diversity of our congregation to?”

The voice of Christ is our ultimate authority! There are two basic forms of authority: intrinsic authority – authority according to nature. And derived authority - given to one from another source. Since “there is no authority except from God” Romans 13:1 - every other kind of authority/voice is derived from another source and therefore secondary to God's power!

Remember, during the illegal trial of our Lord, Jesus said to Pilate; **(John 19:11a) “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.”**

Scripture reminds us, it is the voice of God which ultimately resides over: nature (Job 38); governments (Daniel 4:17, 34-35); and history (Acts 1:7). Despite the wickedness of mankind, God’s voice is interwoven in history and nature itself to accomplish His divine will!

Therefore, as believers, we need not fear man or death itself! Jesus said: (Matthew 10:28) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and

body in hell. The **voice** of Jesus has the same **intrinsic authority** as God the Father. **Philippians 2:6-11** tells us that Jesus is **one** with the Father! **In our text we find an unnamed centurion soldier who places his trust in the intrinsic voice (natural authority) of Christ.** This message is important because it reminds us of the authoritative nature of God's voice (word)! **Something we often forget through the tests, trials, and temptations of this life! (Isaiah 55:11) So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

As we look at the life of this centurion, we find **three evidences** of a life submitted to God's voice! **The first evidence we see in this centurion's life is Humility - (v.6, 7a).** The centurion recognized his unworthiness. There is no sense of entitlement here! After all he did for God's chosen people the Jews, it would have been easy for him to think, **"Hey God, You have to do this for me because of all the things I've done for you!"**

But rather than complain he humbled himself. In humility he was already practicing **two essential principals** founded upon the **voice** (word) of God. **1st principle - The way up, in Christ, is always down. (Matthew 23:12) And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who**

humbles himself will be exalted. He had exhausted his resources. He was no longer seeking Caesar but Christ! **When we come to the end of our “Caesar,” the world’s resources, we start to believe what we have heard, just as the centurion did! “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God!” (Rom. 10:17).** When faith meets desperation, the impossible happens! **Jesus said, (Mark 10:27) “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.” For the humble!**

The second spiritual principal manifested through his humility was, 2nd principal - Love thy neighbor. For Jewish elders to take up his cause is amazing. Jewish elders were known to despise the Romans! Not only that, they were willing to go to Jesus, the one who would be rejected by the Jews!

What’s happening here? Love is being reciprocated. (v.4, 5). Because he chose to love first those of another ethnicity and culture, he had won over those who were his natural enemies. Harvest Night.

The centurion’s love was motivated by perhaps principles he was raised with. But for the believer, here is our motivation! **(1 John 4:19) “We love Him (and others) because He first loved us.” True Love knows no**

boundaries! **The power and grace of God is attracted to humility; James 4:6 “God resists the proud...”**

The second evidence of a life yielded to the voice of God is Subordination - (v.8). This centurion understood he was subordinate (secondary) to Christ! Military people understand authority. Being a non-commissioned officer in the Roman army he understood he had been **placed** in authority but was also **under** authority (his commander). **You will never understand authority, nor exercise it well, until you have been under authority! (Matthew 25:23)** **His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'**

The rebellious child will grow up to be a rebellious employee, spouse, and church member because they've **never** learned to come under the authority of his/her parents! (Kids in the grocery store). Being **unfaithful** in **small things** will disqualify you for **greater things**!

We must be subordinate to our Lord in the small things because we are in a spiritual battle! **2 Corinthians 10:4-6.** **Our weapons are mighty in God for the tearing down of strongholds** but only if our lives are subordinate, yielded, to our Master! Subordination produces liberation in Christ! **Subordination by the centurion brought healing to his servant!** In the same way our subordination to

Christ can also bring healing to our marriages, the local church, and others!

The last evidence we find here in this centurion's life is, Expectancy - (v.7b) Notice: this centurion expected things to change, according to Christ's authority. All Jesus needed to do was "say the word!" (v.7). Distance did not diminish his faith (v.10). **(Psalm 62:5-6) My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.** The Hebrew word for expectation – **tiqvah: ground for hope, outcome, "cord."** Thus, the cord of my expectation is not tied to what I'm asking for, but it is securely fastened to Christ! **Far too often we have cut the cord because things didn't go our way!**

But expectant faith believes, whether I see it come to pass or not, **Jesus is enough! (ttt) Luke 10:17-20. (v.8)** Without expectant faith we will not go when He tells us to go, we will not come when He calls, and we will not do what He commands us to do! Yes, we should expect and ask for good things from God; yet rest in the fact that heaven (Christ) is our ultimate expectation because the greatest miracle of all has already been performed – our names **written in heaven!**

CONCLUSION: (v.9, 10) Jesus marveled at (admired) him for his faith! Great faith is believing in the voice of the Lord rather than the voice of this world! Our victory is in

His voice! The power of His voice is expressed in (ttt)
Psalm 29:3-11. In COMMUNION – we hear His VOICE!
John 3:16.