

Word of The Great King | the gift of living under authority

The Centurion's Secret

Matthew 8:5-13

June 12, 2022

Introduction: We're rightly suspicious of authority. "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely," Lord Acton quips. But one day Jesus met a Roman soldier who understood the power of being under power. "I am a man under authority," he says, and because I am, "I say to one 'Go,' and he goes." Maybe today we feel so impotent because we're so intent on throwing off authority and becoming our own. The Bible offers an alternative: to find the authority of our lives under the authority of a great King.

Prayer: Father, help us to see the centurion and his need through the eyes of Jesus. Amen.

Read: Matthew 8:5-13

Discussion:

1. What drew the centurion to Jesus? What troubled the centurion?
2. What was Jesus' response? How do you react to his response? What was the result? Surprising?
3. What is most significant to you in verses 6-9? Why? What does this teach us about authority?
4. What caused Jesus to be so astonished (verse 10)?
5. What is the significance of verses 11 and 12 in this text about the centurion?

Application: Remember this week the grace given to the centurion, one who was "outside the family".

Prayer: Father, we are grateful for this instructive text about authority and the interaction between Jesus and the centurion. Amen.