

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"THE MODEL OF FAITH" | LUKE 7:1-10 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What comes to mind when someone says "centurion"?

"A Faith for the Whole World that Made the Messiah Marvel" (Luke 7: 1-10)

This centurion wasn't Jewish or a disciple, yet Jesus applauds his faith. **What does that show about Jesus? What does that mean for people?**

"A Faith Filled with Love and Full of Humility" (Luke 7: 1-10)

This Roman military leader, motivated by love for his bondservant, does not demand or argue for Jesus to heal but asks humbly. **How does humility relate to faith?**

"A Faith in Jesus to Heal With A Word" (Luke 7: 1-10)

The centurion believes Jesus has the power to heal from a distance with just a command. **What are ways to show that kind of belief in Jesus this week?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

This Roman military leader was publicly praised by Jesus for his model of faith because of his humble approach and belief that Jesus had the power. **When you look at your own life, do you ask Jesus for mercy or believe you've earned His blessings? Do you believe Jesus has power today? Pray for God to give you humility and faith in His authority.**

The Model Of Faith

I. Announce:

- A. Slide1-4 A.L: CK Summer Camp. Sun Prayer. REAL. Starting Point. Fresh Faith.
- B. Slide5 B: *National Day of Prayer* is this Thurs, **May 5**. 1st, join us for *Pray at the Pole* at **12 noon-12:30**. (flags between City Hall/MPD). Also a free community event for *National Day of Prayer* is meeting here in the Sanct that eve from **7-9pm**.
1. I've asked **Jen Bursch** to come up and talk about *the Assembly Bill, AB 2223*. Jen is not only a dear friend, but is our Attorney that understands the complexity of laws and how they are written. She is the managing partner at Tyler & Bursch and has practiced *Constitutional Law* since 2006. I thought she would be best to **help us** understand **AB 2223**.
- C. Slide6a/b,7 Jen: AB2223. And Baby Bottle Campaign.
- D. Prayer: [Ex. Dir.]

II. Slide8 Intro: *The Model Of Faith* (not just a model, the model of faith)

- A. Look at the very end of ch.7, where there is a question that we can place over the whole chapter, *who is this?*
1. In this chapter, *Luke paints a beautiful portrait of our compassionate Savior, through a series of encounters that Jesus has.*
 - a) Compassion has been defined as, *your pain in my heart.*
 - b) He's going to heal a man *physically* because *God cares for the whole person.*
And that's why we today should be about *acts of mercy*. [not that He always heals]
 2. We see Jesus really is for **the whole world**. It doesn't depend on your **social status**, or your **race**, or your **works**. You may think this morning that *This Jesus isn't for me*, but He is for **you**.
 3. What we see in this chapter is **faith** appearing in *very surprising places*.
 - a) *The Good News* is for: *a gentile soldier, a grieving widow, for a doubting prophet, a sinful women, and for a demon possessed woman.*

b) The Good News is for those: *disturbed by sickness and confronted by death, for those troubled by doubt, & for those that are stricken by guilt.*

4. Who is this Jesus? This week and next, we'll see that He is *The God over sickness and death*. [Every story is about an individual, who *loves another person*]

III. Slide9 THE MODEL OF FAITH (1-10) READ

A. Slide10a A FAITH THAT MADE THE MESSIAH MARVEL (9) *When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."*

B. In our story today we have such *a model of faith* from a gentile soldier.

C. It's interesting, the story isn't really about *the healing* but about the centurions *faith*. *Because*, look how it ends (*read* 10), the healing is like an *afterthought*. They returned to the house, and he was healed. *The story is more about his faith, a faith that turns heads.*

1. He marveled & turned to the crowd – *It's an Applauding Faith.*

2. I love that Jesus turned around to the crowd. He's in awe of this Gentile's *Faith*. (check that out, did you hear that?)

a) He esteems his faith *higher* than any of His own Jewish people.

D. Slide10b How will you make the *Messiah Marvel* at your faith in Him, this week?

E. Slide11 A FAITH FOR THE **WHOLE WORLD** (2) *a centurion* (100 men under his authority)

F. A centurion sending a delegation to Him was odd: We have a **wealthy** man, dealing with a **poor** man. A **Roman** citizen, asking something of an **Israeli** citizen. A **Gentile**, asking a **Jew**. A **powerful centurion**, asking a **meek carpenter**. A mighty man of **war**, asking of the *Prince of Peace*.

G. Faith in unexpected places. This **faith** that **Jesus** highlights here, is not from **the** religious establishment, **but** from a gentile/centurion/Roman or Syrian soldier. Faith in unexpected places.

1. **My Story**: communist soldier that walked up to me in the Airport.

2. You never know where you might find *Jesus' grace shining*, or in whom.

H. *Slide12a* A FAITH FILLED WITH LOVE (1-5) *a bond-servant*

I. Not only *sick* but *at the point of death*.

1. Some of you this week are *in the same place* as this centurion, somebody you know and love and maybe caring for *is dying soon*.

J. In an age where we love *control*, it's hard for us to talk about **death** because we *cannot control* it. *We can postpone it sometimes, but we cannot defeat it*.

1. So we try to *joke it off* and use phrases like, *kick the bucket, pushing up daisies, or mystify it* by simply saying, *passing away*.

K. *Slide12b* Do you have a philosophy of life that will cope with your death?

1. **Jesus** is the only one that holds *power over death*.

L. *Slide13a* A FAITH FULL OF HUMILITY (6) *I am not worthy. I did not presume to come to you*

M. This is a *shocking expression* coming from a leader in the Roman occupying force.

1. **But** the man is truly *an Officer and a Gentleman*.

N. *Opinions concerning this Gentile Roman Centurion:*

1. *Slide13b The Jewish elder's opinion:* 1) He's *worthy*/deserving. 2) He loves our *nation*. 3) He *built* us our *synagogue*.

a) We learn that this man is *loving, thoughtful, & benevolent*.

b) In the synagogue we visit in Capernaum, it dates back to the 4th century, **but** under its floor is the original foundation from the 1st century *this guy paid for*.

c) Here, this soldier laid an important *faith* foundation 2000 years ago, *that still exists*. Oh, and it was *pre-Jesus doing anything for him*.

d) **But** let's get back to *the religious leaders* telling Jesus to heal his servant *because ... You owe him!*

(1) Religious peoples religious mind set: *Think they if they do something bad that they owe God. Think they if they do something good, God owes them.*

(2) **But** we don't *pay God back*, **Jesus does!** And God doesn't owe us anything, He gives us grace.

e) **Slide14a** We can never deserve His blessings **but** we can *ask for them in faith.*

2. **His opinion of himself:** I am not **worthy/sufficient** that you should enter under my roof (diff word: meant *he could not entertain Jesus as Jesus ought to be entertained*) I did not **presume/worthy** to come to you. (same word elder's used).

a) **Slide14b** Bernard of Clairvaux said, *Justice seeks out only the merits of the case, but pity only regards the need.*

b) *"God sends none away empty but those who are full of themselves."*

O. There is always *2 ways to approach Jesus* on **merit** and on **mercy**. Your choice!

1. **Most people think** that they are OK because they are somewhere in between *Mother Teresa and a serial killer.*

2. That's why this guy is **a model of faith**, because *he realizes he can only come by mercy and not merit.*

P. **Slide15 A FAITH IN JESUS TO HEAL** (7) *say the word*

Q. It's his **faith** that believes that **Jesus** can heal.

1. **Not**, come to my house and *pray to the father* to heal, **but** that **Jesus** could do it. 2ndly, **Jesus** can heal from afar. **Today you** do not need to **see Jesus** to ask for healing either, he can heal from afar.

R. **Slide16 A FAITH IN A WORD OF JESUS** (7,8) *authority*

S. We should all come to Christ like this man: 1) w/a Confession of **Humility**, *I am not worthy.* 2) w/a Confession of **Faith**, *Say the Word.*

1. He didn't need to go. He didn't even need to utter a word (we don't have any recorded here).

T. **End:** Do you know this Jesus? Do you approach him in humility? Do you remind him of your merits, or ask him for his mercy? Do you believe he has this kind of authority?

1. Some people have a hard time with the idea of just ***faith itself***.

2. Some think if *I'm a rational person I can't be a person of faith*.

3. Some think that these operate in completely different realms.

U. Some mischaracterize the Christian faith by calling it ***blind trust***.

1. But that's not Christian faith. **We believe there is sufficient evidence for faith. It still takes faith, but it's not a leap into the dark ... It's a leap into the light.** The centurion had **sufficient evidence** in the work of Jesus to believe in him. **And that's what we do.**

V. How will you make the **Messiah Marvel** at your faith in Him, this week?

W. Keywords: abortion, faith, healing, love, mercy, religion.