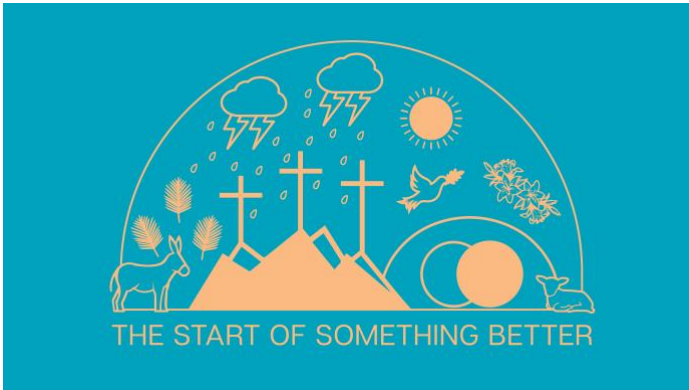


TAKE HOME SHEET



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**Series:** The Start of Something Better  
**Message:** The Plan Takes Shape  
**Speaker:** Rusty Coram  
**Date:** March 26, 2023

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Bill Wilson, the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, is credited with saying “*The good is the enemy of the best*”. This statement is true in many areas and especially in our faith. All too often things that are “good” are seen as a means to justify ourselves before God and to avoid the truth that God wants us to understand and that we need to know.

The Roman officer was a good man but none of his commendable deeds were adequate to give him right standing with God. Jesus was amazed by this man because he understood what God wanted and deserved while those who had been entrusted with Biblical truth seriously missed it.

The following passages will help underscore what God wants from His followers and what distinguishes true believers from the merely religious. Use these to think about where you are with Christ:

*<sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. <sup>9</sup> Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.*

James 4:7–10 (NLT)

*<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied,  
“What is more pleasing to the Lord:  
your burnt offerings and sacrifices  
or your obedience to his voice?  
Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice,  
and submission is better than offering the fat of  
rams. <sup>23</sup> Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft,  
and stubbornness as bad as worshipping idols.  
So because you have rejected the command of  
the Lord, he has rejected you as king.*

1 Samuel 15:22–23 (NLT)

*Those who accept my commandments and obey  
them are the ones who love me. And because  
they love me, my Father will love them. And I will  
love them and reveal myself to each of them.*

John 14:21 (NLT)

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**BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:**

NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



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<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people, he returned to Capernaum. <sup>2</sup> At that time the highly valued slave of a Roman officer was sick and near death. <sup>3</sup> When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some respected Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his slave.

<sup>4</sup> So they earnestly begged Jesus to help the man. "If anyone deserves your help, he does," they said, <sup>5</sup> "for he loves the Jewish people and even built a synagogue for us."

<sup>6</sup> So Jesus went with them. But just before they arrived at the house, the officer sent some friends to say, "Lord, don't trouble yourself by coming to my home, for I am not worthy of such an honor. <sup>7</sup> I am not even worthy to come and meet you. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. <sup>8</sup> I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it."

<sup>9</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd that was following him, he said, "I tell you, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!" <sup>10</sup> And when the officer's friends returned to his house, they found the slave completely healed.

Luke 7:1–10 (NLT)

What was it that amazed Jesus about this Roman officer?

Was it his compassion? Nope.

Was it his respect for other races? Nope.

Was it his just and fair leadership? Nope.

Was it his generosity? Nope.

Was it his belief that Jesus could heal? Nope.

The clues to what amazed Jesus are found in these two things the officer said:

*"I am not worthy..."*

*"Just say the word."*

In these statements, the officer shows genuine humility and trust.

The only other time we read that Jesus was amazed...

*And he was amazed at their unbelief.*

Mark 6:6 (NLT)

**Back to the Roman commander...**

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd that was following him, he said, "I tell you, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!" <sup>11</sup> And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. <sup>12</sup> But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 8:10-12 (NLT)

God's plan was missed because of religious pride.

Do I believe that "I am not worthy"?

Do I follow with "Just say the word"?