

Great Faith, The Substance of

Matt 8:5-17, Luke 7:1-10

Q: What do we notice about the centurion that plays into last weeks discussion about the leper?

He's pleading for help. He's asking for something he cannot do, humbling himself, to ask the one who can do all things (In Luke the servants call the centurion worthy but the centurion has not said that but the opposite)

Q: What is different about the centurion and the leper?

One is a man of high position in their society (a Roman officer) and the other is the lowest (a Jewish leper).
One man asks for himself, another asks for his servant (beloved but certainly thought of as lesser perhaps even expendable)

Q: Is Jesus response similar?

There is no hesitation in either case.

Q: What can we make of this?

When we ask in His time, the answer can be instant

Read the centurion's response in verse 9. What is he saying?

The centurion understands authority and how to behave with and underneath it

Q: Why is Jesus so surprised, thrilled by the Centurion's response to His answer?

1. This man, in a natural sense has higher authority than Jesus (a poor Jewish rabbi)
2. He believes Jesus can merely speak a word and heal his servant - none had asked or had faith to believe such a thing!

Q: What two critical elements of faith does the centurion have that are necessary for salvation?

He has faith not just in what He can do but in who He is (like the leper). Lord and Savior (Romans 10:6-10), this is the confession

Q: What does Jesus mean to say in vs 11? Who are Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

Abraham is the father of our faith (Rom 4:9-12). Isaac was the son of promise and Jacob was the first after to live that out. These are the "fathers" the patriarchs of those who would afterward be justified by faith. To sit at the table is to be saved, come into the kingdom is to receive eternal life.

Q: Who are the sons of the kingdom and why are they cast out?

They have inherited the promises, the Jewish people the chosen of God. They have the law and the prophets, eternal life through faith in God (Acts 13:42-52). Yet all who reject the promises heard will be cast out. The first shall be last, the last shall be first. Faith is the key. The inheritance is a gift, it is either accepted or rejected. (Ephesians 2:8-9)