



BIBLE READING NOTES

faith

PREPARE

How would you define 'faith'? Can you think of an example of someone who has acted or lived out their life in strong faith?

BIBLE PASSAGE

7 When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. ²There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was ill and about to die. ³The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, 'This man deserves to have you do this, ⁵because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.' ⁶So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: 'Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, "Go", and he goes; and that one, "Come", and he comes. I say to my servant, "Do this", and he does it.'

⁹When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, 'I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.' ¹⁰Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well. (Luke 7 vv 1-10)

EXPLORE

1. *In the Gospels it is rare that someone receives a clear commendation from Jesus. When it happens, it is an occasion for reflection. The powerful and poignant testimony of the centurion provides such an opportunity, showing us that people in very surprising places and with very different backgrounds have heard Jesus' message and appreciate it. (taken from Bible Gateway)*





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Go through this passage slowly and carefully to find everything we know or can surmise about the Roman centurion's character.

2. Look at verse 4. What is the reason the elders give for Jesus to heal the man's servant? Think about how you put your requests to God, and whether or not you sometimes use things you have 'done' to give yourself brownie points before God.

What valuable lesson do we learn from the difference in the way the elders and the centurion differ in their approach to Jesus? Consider this translation of verse 8 from the Passion Translation. *8 "Unlike you, I am just an ordinary man. Yet I understand the power of authority, and I see that authority operating through you. I have soldiers under me who obey my every command. I also have authorities over me whom I likewise obey. So Master, just speak the word and healing will flow."*

3. Jesus praises the centurion for his faith. Can you put into words what you think the centurion believed – about himself, and about Jesus?

RESPOND

What does it require for us to follow the pattern for faith that amazes Jesus in this passage?

PRAYER

Can you think of a verse or passage in the Bible that you can hold onto this week as you pray in faith for something?

On Sunday Ben reminded us of two things:

- We don't always get the answers that we long for when we pray for healing. But when we pray, Jesus never fails to come to us and to draw close. We worship a God of relationship who meets us where we are at.
- The centurion sent the elders to ask Jesus on his behalf. Ask a friend to pray for you if you need that. If you'd like prayer, please contact care@emmanuelcroydon.org.uk and we will be pleased to pray for you and with you.

