

112. Healing of the Centurion's Servant (Matthew 8:5-13)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You have authority to heal and to forgive sins. Please help us never doubt, but always trust You. Make us look to You for help in every trouble we experience. We pray in Your name. Amen.

Matthew 8:5-7. Jesus entered the town named Capernaum. A centurion (army captain leading 100 Roman soldiers) came to Jesus and asked for help. He said, "Lord, my servant is at home. He is paralyzed and suffering terribly." Jesus said, "I will go and heal him."

- Jesus was a Jew. What was the centurion? What did Jews think of centurions? Did Jews like them?
- The centurion knew most Jews hated him. Why did he have the courage to go to Jesus and ask for help?
- Jesus said He would go to the centurion's house and heal the servant. Most Jews would not go near the house because they hated the Romans. Why would Jesus go?

Matthew 8:8-9. The centurion said, "Lord, You will come into my house? I don't deserve that! Just command, and my servant will become healed. I myself am a man under another person's authority. I also have authority over other soldiers. I tell one soldier, 'Go,' and he goes. I tell that soldier, 'Come,' and he comes. I tell my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

- Jesus was ready to honor the centurion and go to his house. But the centurion said no! Don't enter my house! Why did the centurion say that?
- The centurion talked about authority. Where does authority come from? Where did the centurion get his authority?

- How did the centurion use his authority? When he gave a command, did it get done?
- Why did the centurion talk to Jesus about authority? What was he telling Jesus?

Matthew 8:10-12. Jesus heard the centurion say this, and Jesus was amazed. Jesus told the people following Him, “I tell you the truth. In Israel, I have not found anyone with faith great like this. I tell you, many people will come from East and West. They will sit at the feast in the kingdom of heaven with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But the citizens in the kingdom will get thrown out into darkness. There, they will cry and grind their teeth.”

- Why was Jesus amazed about what the centurion said?
- Jesus said the citizens in the kingdom will get thrown out. Who are they?
- Jesus said many people from East and West will come and enter heaven. Who are they?

Matthew 8:13. Jesus told the centurion, “Go! Your servant will be healed, the same as you believed would happen.” That same hour, his servant became healed.

- What did Jesus do for the centurion? Did Jesus prove that He has authority?
- When you are in trouble and need help, who has authority to help you?