

Luke 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

Analysis

And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. The Greek entimos (ἐντιμος, precious/highly valued) describes the servant's status—not merely useful property but personally cherished, revealing the centurion's exceptional character. The term doulos (δοῦλος, slave) combined with 'dear' shows remarkable compassion crossing social barriers in a culture where slaves were often treated as tools.

The phrase ēmellen teleutān (ἤμελλεν τελευτᾶν, was about to die) indicates imminent death, emphasizing the desperate urgency. This Gentile's love for his servant foreshadows the gospel breaking ethnic and social boundaries—in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free (Galatians 3:28).

Historical Context

Roman law gave masters absolute power over slaves, including life and death. A centurion caring deeply for a slave's life was culturally extraordinary, reflecting exceptional humanity and possibly the influence of Jewish monotheism on this God-fearer.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the centurion's compassion for his servant challenge social hierarchies and prejudices in your own context?
2. What does this verse teach about the dignity and value God places on every human life, regardless of social status?
3. How should Christ's concern for the marginalized shape your priorities and relationships?

Interlinear Text

Ἐκατοντάρχου	δέ	τινος	δοῦλος	κακῶς	ἔχων	ἤμελλεν
centurion's	And	a certain	servant	sick	was	and ready
G1543	G1161	G5100	G1401	G2560	G2192	G3195
τελευτᾶν	ὃς	ἦν	αὐτῷ	ἔντιμος		
to die	who	was	unto him	dear		
G5053	G3739	G2258	G846	G1784		

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