

Luke 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

Analysis

And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. The centurion's approach through Jewish intermediaries demonstrates cultural sensitivity and humility—as a Gentile, he felt unworthy to approach Jesus directly (verse 7). The Greek presbuterōn (πρεσβυτέρων, elders) were synagogue leaders, their mediation showing the centurion's standing in the Jewish community.

The verb erōtōn (ἐρωτῶν, beseeching/asking) carries urgency and respect, not demand. Matthew's parallel (8:5-13) has the centurion approach directly, likely compressed narration—Luke preserves the detail of indirect approach through elders. This demonstrates that faith operates through appropriate means while ultimately trusting Christ's sovereign power.

Historical Context

Jewish elders serving as advocates for a Roman centurion was extraordinary, reflecting this soldier's unique relationship with the Jewish community. Most Jews resented Roman occupation, making this cooperation remarkable testimony to the centurion's character.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the centurion's cultural sensitivity and humility model appropriate respect when approaching God in prayer?
2. What does his willingness to ask for help teach about faith and vulnerability in times of crisis?
3. How can you intercede for others in desperate need while pointing them to Christ's power?

Interlinear Text

ἀκούσας δὲ περὶ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἀπέστειλεν πρὸς αὐτοῦ
when he heard And of G3588 Jesus he sent unto him
G191 G1161 G4012 G2424 G649 G4314 G846

πρεσβυτέρους τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἐρωτῶν αὐτοῦ ὅπως
the elders G3588 of the Jews G2453 beseeching him that
G4245 G2065 G846 G3704

ἐλθὼν διασώσῃ τὸν δοῦλον αὐτοῦ
he would come and heal G3588 servant him
G2064 G1295 G1401 G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 8:5 (References Jesus): And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,