

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 presbyterōn (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

Psalms 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	beseeking	him	that		
G4245		G2453	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,