

Luke 7:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

Analysis

Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof. The centurion's *ouk eimi hikanos* (οὐκ εἰμὶ ἱκανός, I am not worthy/sufficient) demonstrates profound humility contrasting sharply with the elders' insistence he was worthy (verse 4). The verb *skulloú* (σκύλλω, trouble/bother) shows concern for Jesus' burden—extraordinary sensitivity from a man accustomed to command.

Jewish law forbade entering Gentile homes (Acts 10:28), making the centurion's concern both culturally aware and spiritually perceptive. He recognizes his unworthiness not merely socially (Gentile before Jew) but morally (sinner before Holy God). This echoes the publican's prayer: 'God be merciful to me a sinner' (Luke 18:13). True faith begins with acknowledging unworthiness, not asserting rights.

Historical Context

Entering a Gentile home would render a Jew ceremonially unclean. The centurion's awareness of this restriction shows deep respect for Jewish purity laws and sensitivity to the potential cost to Jesus' ministry among His own people. Peter would later learn this barrier was abolished (Acts 10).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the centurion's humility ('I am not worthy') contrast with modern assumptions about deserving God's blessing?
2. What does his concern for troubling Jesus teach about approaching God with both boldness and reverence?
3. How does genuine faith combine confidence in Christ's power with humble acknowledgment of personal unworthiness?

Interlinear Text

ο δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἐπορεύετο σὺν αὐτῷ, ἦδη δὲ αὐτῷ,
G3588 And Jesus went with him now And him
G1161 G2424 G4198 G4862 G846 G2235 G1161 G846

οὐ μακρὰν ἀπέχοντος ἀπὸ τῆς οἰκίας ἔπεμψεν πρὸς
not far when he was from the house sent to
G3756 G3112 G568 G3588 G3614 G3992 G4314

αὐτῷ, ο ἐκατόνταρχος φίλους λέγων αὐτῷ, Κύριε μὴ
him the centurion friends saying him Lord not
G846 G1543 G5384 G3004 G846 G2962 G3361

σκύλλου οὐ γὰρ εἰμι ικανός οὐπὸ τὴν στέγην μου
thyself not for I am worthy that under roof my
G4660 G3756 G1063 G1510 G2425 G2443 G5259 G3588 G4721 G3450

εἰσέλθῃς.
thou shouldest enter

G1525

Additional Cross-References

Mark 5:24 (References Jesus): And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

James 4:6 (Parallel theme): But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Luke 8:49 (Parallel theme): While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org