

# Luke 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

## Analysis

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**For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.** The centurion's logic is profound: hypo exousian tassomenos (ὑπὸ ἐξουσίαν τασσόμενος, set under authority)—his power to command flows from being under higher authority. He recognizes Jesus operates under divine authority, making His commands absolutely effective.

The present tenses (goes, comes, does) emphasize immediate, unquestioning obedience to authorized commands. The centurion's analogy reasons from lesser to greater: if his limited human authority produces obedience, how much more Christ's divine authority over sickness and death? This understanding of delegated divine authority underlies all biblical faith—we trust Christ's word because it carries God's own authority.

## Historical Context

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A centurion commanded approximately 80-100 soldiers and answered to military tribunes and the legion legate. Roman military discipline was legendary for absolute obedience—orders were executed without hesitation. This centurion saw

spiritual reality mirrored in military structure: Jesus' authority came from the Father.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does submitting to Christ's authority empower you to exercise spiritual authority in prayer and ministry?
2. What does the centurion's reasoning teach about the relationship between obedience to God and effectiveness in service?
3. How can understanding Jesus' delegated authority from the Father strengthen your confidence in His promises?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ γὰρ ἐγὼ ἄνθρωπός εἰμι ὑπ' ἐξουσίαν τασσόμενος  
also For I a man am under authority set  
G2532 G1063 G1473 G444 G1510 G5259 G1849 G5021

ἔχων ὑπ' ἐμαυτὸν στρατιώτας καὶ λέγω τούτῳ  
having under me soldiers also I say unto one  
G2192 G5259 G1683 G4757 G2532 G3004 G5129

πορεύεται καὶ πορεύεται καὶ ἄλλῳ ἔρχεται καὶ  
Go also Go also to another Come also  
G4198 G2532 G4198 G2532 G243 G2064 G2532

ἔρχεται καὶ τῷ δούλῳ μου ποιεῖ τοῦτο καὶ ποιεῖ  
Come also G3588 servant to my Do this also Do  
G2064 G2532 G1401 G3450 G4160 G5124 G2532 G4160

