

Luke 7:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Analysis

Jesus marvels at the centurion's faith: 'I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.' The Greek 'thaumazō' (θαυμάζω, marvel/wonder) indicates Jesus' astonishment—He found greater faith in a Gentile Roman soldier than among God's covenant people. The centurion's faith understood Jesus' authority—just as he commanded soldiers and they obeyed, Jesus commands and nature/disease obey. This faith recognized Jesus' divine authority without needing physical presence. Gentile faith often surpassed Jewish faith, foreshadowing gospel expansion to all nations.

Historical Context

Roman centurions commanded 80-100 soldiers, occupying positions of significant authority. Most Jews despised Romans as pagan occupiers. That a centurion sought Jesus' help and that Jewish elders advocated for him (Luke 7:3-5) suggests this man was exceptional—he built their synagogue and loved their nation. His humility (considering himself unworthy for Jesus to enter his home) and his understanding of authority amazed Jesus. This incident foreshadowed Gentile inclusion in God's kingdom—faith, not ethnicity, determines kingdom membership. Peter later baptized the centurion Cornelius (Acts 10), beginning official Gentile evangelism.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does the centurion's greater faith teach about understanding Jesus' authority versus relying on ethnic or religious privilege?
2. How does Jesus' amazement at Gentile faith foreshadow the gospel's expansion beyond Israel to all nations?

Interlinear Text

ἀκούσας	δὲ	ταῦτα	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ἐθαύμασεν	αὐτῷ	καὶ
heard	When	these things	G3588	Jesus	he marvelled	at him	and
G191	G1161	G5023		G2424	G2296	G846	G2532
στραφεὶς	τῷ	ἀκολουθοῦντι	αὐτῷ	ὄχλῳ	εἶπεν		
turned him about	G3588	that followed	at him	unto the people	and said		
G4762		G190	G846	G3793	G2036		
Λέγω	ὕμῖν	οὐδὲ	ἐν	τῷ	Ἰσραὴλ	τοσαύτην	πίστιν
I say	unto you	no not	in	G3588	Israel	so great	faith
G3004	G5213	G3761	G1722		G2474	G5118	G4102
εὗρον							
I have not found							
G2147							

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 15:28 (Faith): Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Matthew 8:10 (Faith): When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

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