

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 ὡχλῷ εἶπεν
turned him about G3588 that followed G190 at him unto the people and said
G4762 G1722 G846 G3793 G2036

Λέγω ὑμῖν 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

εὑρον

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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