

Matthew 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus' response—"I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel"—is both commendation and rebuke. The Gentile centurion exhibited greater faith than Jesus' own people. This prepares for Jesus' statement (vv. 11-12) about Gentiles entering the kingdom while many Jews are excluded. Faith, not ethnicity or religious heritage, determines kingdom entrance. The centurion's faith combined humility, authority-understanding, and confidence in Jesus' word.

Historical Context

This would shock Jewish hearers expecting the kingdom for Abraham's descendants. Jesus contrasts the centurion's faith with Israel's unbelief despite centuries of revelation. This foreshadows the gospel going to Gentiles (Romans 11).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the centurion's faith challenge your own trust in Jesus' word?
2. What does this passage teach about the danger of presuming on religious heritage?

Interlinear Text

ἀκούσας	δὲ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ἐθαύμασεν	καὶ	εἶπεν	τοῖς
heard	When	G3588	Jesus	it he marvelled	and	said	G3588
G191	G1161		G2424	G2296	G2532	G2036	
ἀκολουθοῦσιν	Ἀμὲν	λέγω	ὕμῖν	οὐδὲ	ἐν	τῷ	Ἰσραὴλ
to them that followed	Verily	I say	unto you	no not	in	G3588	Israel
G190	G281	G3004	G5213	G3761	G1722		G2474
τοσαύτην	πίστιν	εὔρον					
so great	faith	I have					
G5118	G4102	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.

Luke 7:9 (Faith): 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.

Mark 6:6 (Parallel theme): And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

Luke 7:50 (Faith): And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Luke 5:20 (Faith): And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

