

Matthew 8:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

Analysis

The centurion's approach demonstrates remarkable faith from an unexpected source—a Roman officer occupying Israel. His words 'Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented' show concern for a servant (possibly slave) rare among Romans. His coming to Jesus despite being a Gentile and military commander shows humility and desperation overcoming pride and prejudice.

Historical Context

Centurions commanded 100 Roman soldiers and were the backbone of Roman military. Most Jews despised Romans as oppressors and Gentile unbelievers. This centurion built the Capernaum synagogue (Luke 7:5), showing unusual respect for Jewish faith. Palsy (paralysis) was incurable.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What barriers of pride or prejudice must you overcome to come to Jesus?

2. How does the centurion's concern for his servant challenge your compassion?

Interlinear Text

Εἰσελθόντι δὲ τῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς Καπερναούμ, προσῆλθεν
was entered And G3588 Jesus into Capernaum there came
G1525 G1161 G2424 G1519 G2584 G4334

αὐτὸν ἐκατόνταρχος παρακαλῶν αὐτὸν
him a centurion beseeching him
G846 G1543 G3870 G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 27:54 (References Jesus): Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

Acts 27:43 (Parallel theme): But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

Acts 27:31 (Parallel theme): Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

Acts 23:17 (Parallel theme): Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

Matthew 4:13 (Parallel theme): And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:

Acts 27:13 (Parallel theme): And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete.

Acts 23:23 (Parallel theme): And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;

Acts 22:25 (Parallel theme): And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?

Mark 15:39 (Parallel theme): And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

Mark 2:1 (Parallel theme): And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

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