

Matthew 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

Analysis

The centurion's description of his servant's suffering ('grievously tormented') reveals both the severity of the paralysis and the centurion's compassionate concern for a mere servant. This concern was remarkable in Roman culture where slaves were often considered property without inherent dignity. The centurion's appeal to Jesus demonstrates faith crossing ethnic and religious boundaries—a Gentile approaching a Jewish teacher with confident expectation of help.

Historical Context

Centurions commanded 100 Roman soldiers and were known for discipline and capability. That this centurion built the local synagogue (Luke 7:5) suggests unusual sympathy toward Judaism. His concern for a servant's suffering was exceptional in Roman society where slaves had minimal rights.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the centurion's concern for his servant teach about the gospel breaking down social hierarchies?
2. How does this Gentile centurion's faith contrast with the unbelief Jesus often encountered among ethnic Israel?

Interlinear Text

καὶ λέγων, Κύριε ὁ παῖς μου βέβληται ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ
And **saying** **Lord** ^{G3588} **servant** **my** **lieth** **at** ^{G3588} **home**
G2532 G3004 G2962 G3816 G3450 G906 G1722 G3614

παραλυτικός, δεινῶς βασανιζόμενος
sick of the palsy **grievously** **tormented**
G3885 G1171 G928

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 4:1 (Parallel theme): Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

Matthew 4:24 (Parallel theme): And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Colossians 3:11 (Parallel theme): Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Acts 10:7 (Parallel theme): And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

Acts 9:33 (Parallel theme): And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

Acts 8:7 (Parallel theme): For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

1 Timothy 6:2 (Parallel theme): And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

Philemon 1:16 (References Lord): Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

Matthew 9:2 (Parallel theme): And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.