

Luke 7:1-10 *Understanding Authority*

au·thor·i·ty (noun)

The power or right to

1. give orders,
 2. make decisions,
 3. and enforce obedience.
- "he had absolute authority over his subordinates"
 - "the authority to arrest drug traffickers"
 - official permission; sanction.

Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. ² And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die.

Recognize the sickness is not within his authority.

Q. What areas of life do we think are under our own authority that are not?

- Health, Finances, Employment, Relationships,

³ So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, ⁵ "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

Sent a request to Jesus, He was a gentile so he sent respected Jewish leaders. We no longer need a go between.

Q. What are some of the things that we do instead of making a request to Jesus?

- We worry, strive, try harder, look for assistance elsewhere

⁶ Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. ^{7a} Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You.

Humility, Jewish tradition would not allow a Jewish person to come into a gentile home. This was tradition not law.

Q. Many times we don't personally approach Jesus with our requests. What hinders us?

- Pride, lack of faith, rebellion,

^{7b} But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

He expresses confidence or faith in the One who has the ultimate authority

Q. Are you under God's authority? Are you giving God the power or right to

1. give orders,
2. make decisions,
3. and enforce obedience.

Q. What does that look like? When is the last time you took an order from God? Made a decision based on His Word not your desires? When was the last time you sensed God enforcing obedience to His precepts?

- Health, Finances, Employment, Relationships,

⁹When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

Jesus only marvels at belief and unbelief (**Mark 6:6**)

Demonstrate: clearly **show** the existence or truth of (something) by giving proof or evidence.

The centurion's faith was demonstrated by:

1. Recognizing his own need
2. Sending leaders to Jesus to advocate for him
3. His humility toward Jesus
4. Expressing confidence in Jesus's authority

Q. What are some ways that we have demonstrated faith?

¹⁰ And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

Building on a Solid Foundation

Luke 6 ⁴⁶"So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?⁴⁷ I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, ***listens to my teaching, and then follows it.*** ⁴⁸ It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. ⁴⁹ But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."