

Humble Faith

Description

Matthew 8:5-13

A Roman centurion was the backbone of the entire army, one who was looked upon with honor and respect. Although slaves were without rights, this soldier was concerned for his servant, who was “close to death” (Luke 7:2), enough to humbly come to Jesus for help.

A man of war going to the Prince of Peace? A Gentile approaching a Jew? That just didn’t happen. The words “faith” and “believe” are found almost 500 times in the New Testament.

The Roman soldier came to Christ, asking for help. Other translations use words like “appealing” (NRSV) and “came up in a panic” (TM). Is that our habit of approaching God?

Accustomed to giving commands that were always carried out, the centurion understood authority, fully persuaded that Jesus was one with authority—authority over disease, danger, and even demons (Matthew 8:1-32).

At this display of “such great faith,” Jesus marveled, something He did only twice in the gospels, here and in Mark 6:6. It took a lot for such a powerful man to approach Jesus for help. Will you do likewise?

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