

LUKE 7:1-10

God’s timing is always perfect – His method and means are always righteous and good, and our extremity is His opportunity

*“And a certain centurion had a slave who was highly regarded by him, and was sick and about to die...when the centurion heard about Jesus, **he sent some Jewish elders** asking Him to come and save the life of his slave. And when they had come to Jesus, they earnestly entreated Him, saying, **‘He is worthy** for You to grant this to him; for he loves our nation, and it was he who built us our synagogue.’”*

Elders incorrectly viewed someone as worthy **who loved them and gave them things** – Do we think we are worthy because of good works?

Elders valued the centurions worth on his building the synagogue (church) – **Kindheartedness is good but not the basis of worthiness**

If we are worthy based on what we do, then we have a gospel of salvation according to merit rather than grace – Titus 3:5

Christianity is not a “meritocracy” of earning points but a “graceocracy”...**unmerited favor from God to believe by faith** – Eph. 2:8-10

We receive redemption through His shed blood which is a free gift to those who believe and perdition to those who do not – Eph. 1:7, Jn. 3:16

Our heavenly Father does not grade “on a curve”...salvation is Jesus or nothing - No other name under heaven by which man is saved – Acts 4:12

Religious messengers evaluated a man outwardly, how much money he has, what he gives...**they see the centurion as worthy**

Implored Jesus to save the life of the centurion’s slave - They liked the fact that they were mediators of their own righteous perspective

JESUS IS SO GRACIOUS

*“**Now Jesus started on His way with them**; and when He was already not far from the house, the **centurion sent friends**, saying to Him, ‘Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for **I am not fit for You to come under my roof**; for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but **just say the word**, and my **servant will be healed**. For indeed, I am a **man under authority**, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.’ **And when Jesus heard this, He marveled** at him, and turned and said to the multitude that was following Him, ‘I say to you, **not even in Israel have I found such great faith**.’ And when those who had been sent returned to the house, **they found the slave in good health**.” – When Jesus marvels, we need to pay close attention*

The centurion saw himself correctly – **Sent first message by the wrong messengers with wrong perspective**

Centurion’s friends present his real heart - **A faithful messenger will articulate and represent both the spirit and intent of your request**

Elders saw centurion worthy of favor - **The centurion saw himself not even worthy for the Lord to come under roof** – **True humility**

Centurion’s friends tell Jesus not to trouble Yourself further – **Just say the word, you don’t have to be here...and his servant will be healed**

Just say the word – The centurion believed something amazing...Christ’s authority and power from above – **Jesus marveled at his faith**

Do we believe that God could just say the word and it happens? **Do we believe the Lord will meet and sustain in every circumstance?**

We have authority and are to leave the results up to God – **Jesus has given all we need to do His will** – **Faith pleases God!**

*“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 10:4-5 – **Let us not be neutralized nor nominal resulting in ineffectiveness***

May we be people of the Word, filled with the Spirit, committed to God as faithful messengers of the Gospel