

## **“Things Accomplished Among Us” (Luke 1:1)**

*Selected Reflections From Luke*

### **The Centurions’ Faith**

#### **Luke 7:1-10**

*After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. <sup>2</sup>Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. <sup>3</sup>When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. <sup>4</sup>And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy to have you do this for him, <sup>5</sup>for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue.” <sup>6</sup>And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. <sup>7</sup>Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. <sup>8</sup>For I too am a man set under authority, with 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.” <sup>9</sup>When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” <sup>10</sup>And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.*

I want to point out three interesting things about this event in the life of Christ. (1) Though we don’t have many *details* about the Centurion, we can know something about him, based on his interests in his servant. Do you realize how rare this must have been? In many other cases, if a servant became ill, he was considered useless and just dismissed, without much consideration for his health or life. This Centurion cared about the health and life of his servant. Just that is commendable.

(2) His Jewish friends complimented him far more than he was willing to accept. And this is an indication of this man’s humility. Notice, the Jewish elders said, *this man “is worthy.”* Two verses later in Luke’s account, the Centurion says, “I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.” Here was a highly placed Roman officer who cared for his servant and who exhibited this rare humility. So, the next thing is no surprise.

**(3) He had such faith, Jesus commended him.** The text says that Jesus “marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed Him, said, ‘I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.’ And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.”

This miracle of Jesus, like the others, has embedded in it – something in addition to the primary purpose of evidence. **It displays the compassion of Jesus.** And, it tells us, even among those who did not grow up in the Jewish system – there were people with tender hearts, ready to believe in Jesus. The good and honest heart soil, of the parable of the sower.

Are you ready to believe in Jesus? Will you keep believing in Him? Can your faith and my faith be commended by the Lord?

Thank you for listening.

-Warren E. Berkley