**Week of Oct 20, 2019**

**Luke 7:1-10**

**Key Verse:** “7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.”

(Luke 7:7)

**1 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered Capernaum. 2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. 3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, that he was worthy for whom he should do this: 5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue. 6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof: 7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. 8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 9 When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.**

**Understanding the Scriptures**

This week’s lesson takes us to the New Testament and the Gospel of Luke. There are two books that are credited to Luke in the New Testament and the are The Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. Luke was not one of the twelve disciples. He wrote the gospel of Luke relying on historical records and the firsthand accounts of eyewitnesses. Luke described himself as a research and investigator. He wrote an orderly account of “those things that have been fulfilled among us.” Luke was a Gentile. The Gospel of Luke covers the period beginning with the birth of John the Baptist (6BC) and Jesus resurrection (AD 30). Thus, Luke’s gospel would have been written between AD 58-60Jesus was in Capernaum. Capernaum was recognized as Jesus’ second home. Jesus encountered a centurion, a Gentile. Scholars believe that this centurion was a member of Herod Antipas’ forces because of the way these forces were organized in groups of one hundred men. The centurion’s servant became very ill and was near death. The centurion believed that Jesus was able to heal his servant. The centurion was considered “a friend of Israel.” The centurion believed in Jesus healing capabilities so much that he sent Jewish elders to present his request to Jesus. Scholars agree that these “Jewish elders” were highly respected Jews of the community, not necessarily rulers of the synagogue. When Jesus and the messengers were not far from the centurion’s home, the elders told Jesu that the servant’s faith was so strong that if Jesus were to pronounce a healing from a far, the centurion believed it would be done. When the Jewish elders returned to the centurion’s house, they found that the servant had been healed. This scripture text outlines the importance of faith. The same faith the centurion demonstrated is what God wants His people today to possess.

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