



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Man who Astonished Jesus

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Capernaum and the Galilee region became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, sharing scripture and teaching. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Luke shares what Jesus said about the actions and character of people that love and serve Him. They will hear His words and act on them. The Roman centurion did what Jesus said.

“When He had completed all His discourse in the hearing of the people, He went to Capernaum. And a centurion’s slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him to come and save the life of his slave. When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored 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.” Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, “Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy 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 I also am a man placed 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.” Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, “I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith.” When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.” (Luke 7:1-10 NASB)

Following the Sermon on the Plain. Luke records that after Jesus had chosen the twelve and preached to the multitudes the attributes of a true disciple (The Beatitudes); He went to Capernaum, a short walking distance from where He preached.

A Roman centurion, one who commands about 100 soldiers, had heard about Jesus and sent Jewish leader to request that Jesus heal a beloved slave of his who had become sick and was likely to die. This centurion was a man of faith and loved the Jewish community so he built a synagogue for them. Jesus uses this example of a Roman centurion to illustrate what a true disciple will look like. This specific Roman centurion loved in a way that was unusual for any man and unheard of from a Roman centurion.

The Jewish elders called the centurion worthy. Luke records that Jewish religious leaders described the centurion as worthy, because he had build them a synagogue. The religious system in place was about merit or worthiness or earning God’s favor by what they do.

The centurion did not consider himself worthy. The centurion understood his unworthiness and more importantly he understood the power and authority of Jesus. The centurion, one under military authority, understood that if Jesus just gave the word; it would be done. The centurion had faith that Jesus could do all that He said.

Jesus marveled at the centurion. This is the only mention in scripture of Jesus marveling or being amazed by any person. Jesus saw in the centurion, a Gentile, the attitudes and behaviors of a true disciple that He had preached about earlier. Jesus observed in this centurion love, compassion, mercy, respect, humbleness and faith. The only other time that Jesus was amazed or in wonder was for the unbelief of the religious establishment. (Mk 6:6) Luke shares that Jesus’ ministry was not just to the Jews but also to the Gentiles in this example.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you consider yourself worthy because of what you do for God?
- Do you consider yourself unworthy because of what you do but thankful for what Jesus did for you?
- Do you believe, like the centurion, that Jesus has the power and authority to do all He says He can do?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44