

## ***Jesus: Our Compassionate Healer***

*Matthew 8:5-15*

Matthew continues in his presentation of the kingship of Christ by giving us the credentials of the King. Matthew 8:1-15 records the first three miracles (out of ten from Matthew 8-9) of our Lord Jesus. The section from verse 5-13 talks about the faith of one centurion. In this passage the Lord Jesus manifests His sovereign power in healing of the centurion's servant by simply saying a word, and in doing that, Matthew is teaching us that Jesus is the one and only Savior of the world; that Jesus is the Savior of Jews and of Gentiles; that Jesus is our compassionate healer. Jesus marveled at the faith of this centurion. Note three features of his faith:

**1. *The \_\_\_\_\_ of Faith***

In Luke's Gospel (7:1-10), Luke tells us that the centurion did not actually go to Jesus. Instead hearing what Jesus had done for others, he sent some Jewish people with this message because he felt unworthy to be in the presence of Christ and he felt unworthy to have Jesus in his home so he sends these Jews in his behalf and they speak to Jesus for him (Luke 7:3). The fact that he was a Gentile (and a Roman soldier) did not stop him from asking for healing on behalf of his servant (v. 6). Though he was a Gentile, he was held in great esteem by the Jews in his place (Luke 7:2-5; cf. Acts 10:2).

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**2. *The \_\_\_\_\_ of Faith***

We see in verse 8 the utmost respect and reverence of this centurion to the Lord Jesus. He showed respect for the Jewish customs (John 18:28; Acts 10:28; 11:2,3). He saw his unworthiness in light of Jesus' worthiness. That's what true worship is all. True worship takes place in the heart when you see God for who He really is and when you see yourself for who you really are (Isaiah 6:1-7; Luke 5:1-8).

Here's a tough, skilled, soldier who at the same time was gentle, humble, meek, sensitive, loving tenderness who was concerned for his sick slave. He knew, he understood and he believed in the authority (and power) of Jesus (v. 9). His faith stood in rebuke against the faith of the Jews (vv. 11-12; cf. Matt. 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51).

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**3. *The \_\_\_\_\_ to Faith***

Because of this centurion's faith, Jesus granted his request (v. 7; 13). *Jesus said to the centurion, 'Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.' And his servant was healed that same hour.* Does God always heal? Not always (He did not heal Paul's thorn in the flesh (2 Co. 12:7-10). God heals according to His sovereign choice. He heals people with small faith and great faith. Sometimes, he even heals people who had no faith (eg. Mark 2:1-5). God's acceptance of him was not based on religion, good character, philanthropy, humility, etc. God accepted this centurion because of his faith.

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You come to saving faith when you rest upon Christ for what Christ has done for you. And knowing what Christ has done, being convinced of the truthfulness of it, you rely upon him. Does this describe your faith? May you come to Jesus acknowledging your utter need of His forgiveness and in repentance entrust your life to Him today.