



The Centurion Asked

By Terry Kountz on December 2, 2022

READING: Matthew 8

Do you remember what it's like to ask someone out on a date? First you work up the courage to ask. Then once you do ask, there is that moment that seems to last forever as you wait for the response. One reason we get so nervous is that asking makes us vulnerable. It forces us to admit we are not in control and to humble ourselves before them. There is a risk in asking, and facing that risk takes faith.

This was as true for the centurion in Matthew 8 as it is for us. Centurions were powerful men. To humble himself and ask Jesus to heal his servant was a bold move. This man likely had hundreds of soldiers under his command. He could have allowed pride, distance, self-sufficiency, or any number of things to stop him from approaching Jesus. He may have played out all the reasons why Jesus could (or should) tell him no.

But because the centurion was willing to humble himself, Jesus made an example of his faith (Matthew 8:10). The centurion's actions stood in sharp contrast to many of the religious folks Jesus met. They were so confident in their own righteousness that they did not think they needed Jesus. And if we are not careful, we will fall into that trap, too.

The longer we follow Jesus, the easier it is to lean on our own understanding of what a Christian should do and stop asking Jesus for His help. James, Jesus' brother, reminds us, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up" (James 4:10).

Because of the centurion's humility, great healing took place. What might happen in our lives when we are willing to be bold and humble ourselves before God?

PRAYER: Lord, give me faith like that of the centurion. Help me trust You in all I do. Help me spend time with You in prayer and Your Word so I can follow Jesus and be more like Him.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: Matthew 9

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