

## **BIBLE STUDY**

**Rev. Brenda Price**

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### **ANATOMY OF A MIRACLE (THE CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED)**

Luke 7:1-10 (cross reference Matthew 8:5-13)

#### **BACKGROUND**

Luke the beloved physician is the writer of this book. Luke a Jew of the diasporas wrote his book after research of compiled accounts and eye witness reports and by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Luke writes of Jesus as the Son of Man and the Son of God. We see Jesus' humanity and his divinity vividly displayed. Luke also writes of Jesus' many contacts with Jews and non-Jewish people also thus demonstrating Jesus is for all people. Luke was a constant travel companion of the apostle Paul.

In Chapter Seven Jesus is doing ministry in the Galilee area. He has just finished the Sermon on the Mount and has traveled to Capernaum which is on the Sea of Galilee.

#### **THE PARTS OF A MIRACLE**

Miracles just don't happen. Some things need to be in place for it to be realized.

##### **I. The knowledge of Jesus and what he can do**

In order for a miracle to be done a person must first be aware of Jesus and what Jesus is able to do. The centurion had heard about Jesus. Maybe he had heard how Jesus had been travelling about healing people, raising the dead, teach the word with power, or maybe he heard that Jesus was compassionate and talked with sinners and saints alike. The Centurion knew that Jesus was the person to go to. We learn of Jesus through word of mouth, Bible reading, sermons, songs and the testimony of others. How did you hear about Jesus? What can Jesus do in your life?

##### **II. There is a Need**

The second part of the miracle is that there is a need for God to work. The servant is sick unto death. When we are sick we may not be in the position to ask for help or even to pray like we should. The person who is asking for the miracle, the Centurion, is aware of the need for a miracle in his servant's life. The Centurion is the intermediary. He is the one asking for a miracle for someone else. Did someone ask you to pray for them but couldn't tell you what it was about? Pray for them, Jesus is able to discern the need. Jesus knows what we need. Jesus is able to help. We often don't acknowledge that we have a need. What is your need or is it a family or friend's need?

##### **III. There is a Request**

Centurion was a Roman soldier who commanded about 100 men. Roman soldiers to this day are commended on their strength and discipline in the art of war. This centurion was a man of war but he was also a lot more. When we read the scripture we start to see a lot about his character. Verse 2 tells us he was a man of compassion. This man cared for a servant enough to ask for a miracle for him. We have to ask the Lord for help. The Centurion in his faith and his humility and with the concern for another human being makes a request of the Lord. Jesus says "ask and it shall be given you" (Matthews 7:7).

##### **IV. Faith for a Miracle**

In verse 3, we learn that the Centurion is a man of faith. He had heard about Jesus and believed in Jesus' power. The Centurion was considered worthy by the Jews because he was a supporter of the Jewish cause and he'd built a synagogue (vs. 4-5). This was a big deal because he was non-Jewish and he was part of the occupational forces in Israel (an army to be hated) yet the Jewish people had

respect for him. This Centurion was also seeking God. The fact that he built a Synagogue indicates that the man had a certain amount of wealth. All the money in the world doesn't stop us from needing God. God is not restricted to just one race, creed of people or how much money one has. We all need Jesus but we all do not have to be Jewish or speak one particular language for the Lord to hear us. Looking further at the Centurion we see that he was a humble man (vs. 6-7). He did not feel himself worthy to come to the Lord or have the Lord come to him but he had faith in the power of Jesus and what Jesus could do. He understood Jesus' authority. Authority is the right to command. Matthews 28:18 (New International Version translation) "Jesus says all authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Do you believe Jesus has authority? Are you willing to give Jesus authority over your life? What does it mean for Jesus to have authority in heaven and in earth? What does this say about Jesus in a miracle?

#### V. **Jesus and the Response**

Jesus heard the Centurion's request to come heal the servant and Jesus begins to go the man's house. Jesus is going because a request was made. Jesus is willing to enter your life at your request (Revelations 3:20). Jesus honors the man's faith by first remarking on it. Jesus says how great this man's faith is. The Centurion understood the power of God to the point that all Jesus had to do was say the word. This same ability for God to say the word and things happen is seen in Genesis chapter 1 when God SPOKE the universe into being.

Secondly, Jesus honors the Centurion's faith by answering his request and healing the servant. Jesus is a miracle working God. Did you notice that the servant never asked for the healing? We can pray for people and our faith will do the work. Who are you praying for? Don't worry if the person doesn't have faith to believe in the miracle, the Lord will use your faith. Also check out Mark 2:1-5 where the faith of four friends and a request to Jesus was enough for the fifth friend to be healed.

Many people seek to restrict a miracle by telling God how it is to be done. Make the request and get out of the way and let the Lord do his thing! Are you getting in the way of a miracle?

#### **Summary**

Jesus met the man at his point of need and faith. The centurion expressed his faith. Jesus answered the request. Jesus expressed his authority as God and healed the man. In Matt 8: 13 we see that Jesus sent the word and the servant was healed at that very moment and without Jesus being physically present. Our prayers for our troops in the Middle East can travel.

The Centurion HEARD about Jesus, BELIEVED what Jesus could do, SOUGHT Jesus and made his REQUEST. Jesus HEARD the request, RESPONDED to the FAITH and ANSWERED the request for a MIRACLE.

Continue to seek the Lord through prayer, Bible study, Sunday School lessons, sermons and worship. Also, don't forget to be around people who love the Lord and speak well of Jesus and what Jesus can do in our lives. This can be a great encouragement for our faith.

#### **Sidebar:**

Do we push God away? God is a personal God. He wants to be involved in our life and with us. In Genesis chapter 2 and 3 we see God talking and interacting with Adam and Eve. Throughout the Bible we see God interacting on a personal level with people. This same God desires to interact with us.

The Centurion's humility and faith was great but his self esteem was poor. In Luke's account of the events the man felt too common to allow Jesus to come to him. Too often we put barriers between ourselves and God. We think of our shortcomings, our sins, our imperfections and think, "I can't come to God like this." Still other say, "When I clean myself up I'll become a Christian and get saved." Jesus honored the request of a non-Jewish man, a man who was not one of the clique. Jesus healed and will heal, save and deliver men and women boys and girls who only turn to him. We put the restrictions on salvation. Jesus says believe and receive Him. (John 1:12). The scriptures says whoever believes in

Jesus will be saved (John 3:16). There is a miracle waiting in your life. Don't look at your imperfections look at God's perfection.