



COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Nameless: The Centurion Week 4

A story is told about King Canute, who ruled England in the eleventh century. He had his chair placed beside the sea and commanded the incoming tide to stop. He ordered it not to wet his feet or his royal robes.

The tide kept coming. Soon, the king's feet were getting soaked.

Apparently, the ocean hadn't read the organizational chart.

Perceived authority and actual authority are not the same thing.

In Luke chapter 6, Jesus is giving a sermon. It's called the Sermon on the Plain. Remember, in Matthew 5, 6, 7 we have this Sermon on the Mount. This sermon is different. It's the Sermon on the Plain. Flat land... But you see themes in Jesus's teachings that are very similar. In the Sermon on the Mount, you have the beatitudes.

In the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus gives **4 blessings and four woes**.

Luke 6:20-22

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

Luke 6:24-26

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

What Jesus is doing here is showing that to live with Him and be in His kingdom, you will be counter to the culture of this world.

Then, after finishing His sermon, He went to Capernaum. Which was like Jesus' "home base" during His ministry. He adopted it as His hometown.

When Jesus encounters this Centurion, He finds a man who is desperate. His love for his servant is so great that he would risk his Roman reputation for his faith reputation.

A Roman centurion would be in a position to command 100 Roman soldiers. Hints the word Centurion/ century. 100 Roman soldiers obeyed every order, request, and demand of this man. For those 100 Roman soldiers, his authority was ironclad.

If he wanted the soldiers to move...they moved.
If he wanted them to stay...they stayed.

So this man completely understands authority. He knows where it comes from. But he also knows how to respond to it. He knows how to use authority.

Luke 7:4-5

When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with Him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." So Jesus went with them.

This centurion had built a reputation.

Ecclesiastes 7:1

A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death is better than the day of birth.

The centurion shows us what that looks like in real life. His influence wasn't just rooted in his authority as a Roman officer; it was rooted in how he treated people, how he served his community, and the character he demonstrated over time.

You cannot demand a good reputation. You have to live your way into it.

Luke 7:7-8

But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Authority starts with obedience and ends with confidence.

The centurion understood that because he lived under authority, he could exercise authority. His obedience to the authority above him gave him confidence in the authority entrusted to him.

The more we learn to live under Jesus' authority, the more confidently we can trust Jesus' authority.

Luke 7:9

"I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

The faith in the authority of Jesus from the Centurion changed everything.

Luke 7:10

Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

Jesus Asleep in the boat.

Mark 4

“He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down, and it was completely calm.”

Luke 7:1-10

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, He entered Capernaum. There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to Him, asking Him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with Him, “This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to Him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard this, He was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following Him, He said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.⁴