

Remnant Life Church  
July 14, 2019  
**Faith Without Reason**  
Luke 7:1-10

We talk about the foundational things of the church and the Christian walk with a particular vocabulary –

- Saved; mercy; grace; love; sacrifice; forgiveness; sin...
- But one word is at the center of what we talk about when it comes to our relationship with Jesus Christ – faith
  - In Paul's letters of the NT he speaks of faith over 150 times
  - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith" – Rom 1:16-17*
  - *For we live by faith, not by sight. – 2 Cor 5:7*
  - *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - Eph 2:8*

Faith does not require my understanding, comprehension, agreement, or reason. It only requires my heart and my mind to align with God's Word and His promises.

Look this morning at several instances in the Bible that required faith without reason

- Why do this?
  - To understand that what is happening today in our lives that requires great faith is little different than what was required as far back as the OT
- I. The Centurion with the sick servant
- a. **READ – Luke 7:1-10**
  - b. The Centurion in the Roman military was a man of great responsibility and power
  - c. The Roman army was one of the greatest fighting machines ever in history
    - i. Many ways they did things are at the foundation of the military today (platoon, company, squadron, battalion, division...)
    - ii. The most impressive thing about the Roman army, however, was its sheer size
  - d. A Roman legion was 6000 – 8000 men (could be as many as 10,000)
    - i. Within a legion were 10 cohorts of between 600 – 800 men
    - ii. The cohort consisted of 6 centuries of approx. 100 men (give or take 10 or 20)
  - e. During the time of Jesus birth/early life, Caesar Augustus was the ruler of Rome
    - i. In the time of his rule it was the height of the Imperial Roman Army
    - ii. There were as many as 25 legions of soldiers available to impose the will of Caesar
    - iii. Fighting force of between 150,000 and 200,000 men
- II. Who was the Centurion
- a. He was a literate man (could read commands)
    - i. Had to be connected (letters of recommendation)
    - ii. Be at least 30 years of age
    - iii. Had already served for several years with distinction
    - iv. Earned his place of responsibility through repeated acts of bravery and the simple fact that he had proven himself by still being alive
    - v. Responsible for the men under his command, discipline, successfully carrying out the wishes of those over him
  - b. Commanded approx. 80 – 100 men
    - i. Within one legion would be 60 centurions
    - ii. The centurions answered to one of the legion's 6 tribunes
    - iii. The tribunes answered to Caesar

- c. The centurion was, as was all of Rome, an idol worshipper
- d. And because of how they ruled the people of the nations they conquered, most often with great brutality, they were hated and despised by the Jews
- e. The other thing about the Centurion, however, was they expected and received instant obedience to their slightest command

III. This particular Centurion was unique and very special

- a. He was caring, generous and concerned about his slave (Luke 7:4-5)
  - i. A slave to the Romans was a piece of property
  - ii. An ancient historian referred to them as “living tools”
- b. And so this was not the normal behavior of a centurion especially regarding a slave or a vanquished foe like the Jewish people
- c. Christians should always be careful about labeling others based on sight or perception alone
  - i. Nicodemus – was a Pharisee who argued on Jesus’ behalf and, with Joseph of Arimathea, prepared Jesus for burial (John 7:50; 19:39)
  - ii. Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John – were rough and vulgar fishermen
  - iii. Matthew – tax collector for Rome (a state-sponsored thief)
- d. God may have brought someone to you who on the outside appeared one way but on the inside was someone very different (Jason Kean)
  - i. You may be the one to point them to Jesus or encourage someone who desperately needs a kind or loving word
  - ii. An encounter with Jesus changes everything!

A couple of other instances...

IV. Faith of the Bleeding Woman

- a. **READ** – Luke 8:40-48
  - i. 12 years and no one could help her
  - ii. Some translations say she had spent everything she had on doctors
  - iii. She would have had to push her way through to Jesus
    - 1. Not only because of the crowd
    - 2. Because she was a woman
- b. Her amount of faith only required her to touch Jesus’ garment
- c. What faith does not require is a particular formula
  - i. Many preachers have gotten rich telling people that for a particular amount of money their faith will be increased
  - ii. Others that only their praying for them will bring healing or blessing
  - iii. These are all lies!!

V. Genesis 6 – Noah

- a. Ave rainfall for that region is approx. 12” per year (Hbg. 42”)
- b. Noah was probably around 530-550 years old at this time
- c. There had never been a craft like this every constructed – 450’ long – 75’ wide – 45’ high
- d. Gen 6:22 is Noah’s verse of faith – *Noah did everything just as God commanded him.*
- e. Absolutely NOTHING about what happened with Noah made sense
  - i. He had nothing to reference
  - ii. He only knew evil all around him, but he recognized the voice of the Lord
  - iii. Faith begins with recognizing truth in the voice of God in your life

VI. Three observations of the Centurion

- a. The first by the Jewish elders of Capernaum (How did others see him?)
  - i. He is worthy or deserving – He loves our nation – He built us our synagogue (7:4-5)
  - ii. They spoke on behalf of the Roman
  - iii. How do other people see you?
- b. Second, his opinion of himself – humble (How he saw himself)
  - i. I am not worthy (7:6b – 7a)

- ii. I understand authority (7:8)
    - iii. Is humility a difficult thing for you to embrace in your life?
      - 1. Subtle pride
      - 2. Evils of pride in the Bible
      - 3. Is someone filled with pride? – How do they respond when something does not go the way they want it to?
  - c. Third and most importantly, Jesus' opinion of him (How did God see him?)
    - i. Not seen such great faith (7:9)
    - ii. His faith was rewarded
    - iii. Great Faith is Always Rewarded
- Jesus is recorded as having marveled or been amazed only twice in the Scripture
    - The first is here at the faith of the Centurion
    - The second is when He was rejected in Nazareth, and it says *He marveled at their unbelief* (Mark 6:6)
    - In both instances, Jesus marveled at faith – the presence of it in the Centurion and the absence of it in His own hometown
  - This Roman Centurion, this pagan, demonstrated a faith without reason for his servant to be healed – a faith that amazed Jesus
  - But great faith requires commitment
    - **READ - Exodus 21:2-6**
      - Hebrew servant was free after 6 years of service
      - He could choose to stay but it required a commitment
      - Go before the judges; pierce his ear to the doorpost; awl
      - It was a symbol of commitment for life on both sides
- VII. God has already committed Himself to you
- a. But it was not a doorpost, it was a cross
  - b. It was not an awl through the ear, but nails through His hands and feet
  - c. What commitment To God are you making in your daily walk?
  - d. Like the centurion, might you cause Jesus to marvel at your faith?