



Title: Leadership lessons from a Roman centurion
Pastor: Carlos Moses
Date: 10 March 2013
Time: 18:00pm

Luke 7:1–10 (NIV) ¹ When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. ² There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. ³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this," ⁵ because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." ⁶ 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." ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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." ¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent, returned to the house and found the servant well.

A. he cherished human life —

"whom his master valued highly"

Psalms 49:7–8 (NIV) ⁷ No one can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for them— ⁸ the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough—

Psalms 116:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

B. he had a noble character —

"this man deserves to have you do this"

Proverbs 22:1 (NIV) ¹ A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

C. he had a contrite spirit —

"I am not worthy"

Isaiah 57:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ For this is what the high and exalted One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

D. he had a readiness to comply with authority –

“I am a man under authority“

1 Corinthians 11:3 (NIV) ³ But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Judges 11:11 (NIV) ¹¹ So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them. And he repeated all his words ... Lord in Mizpah.

E. he understood the chain of command –

“I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes”

Joshua 1:9–11 (NIV) ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” ¹⁰ So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: ¹¹ “Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready’”.

2 Timothy 2:3–4 (NIV) ³ Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.

F. Jesus commends the man’s faith

“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.””

Matthew 8:10–13 (NIV) ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

This man’s understanding of authority, submission and Godly leadership has eternal consequences