

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## *An Extreme Appeal*

After Jesus heals the leper, He receives another unusual request

### **Matthew 8:5-13**

How do the requests differ?

- One is an **outcast leper**
- One is a **Roman military officer**
- One has **no influence or resource**
- One has **servants and authority**
- One appeals **for himself**
- One **pleads for someone else**
- Jesus **touch**ed the leper to heal him
- He **never even saw** the servant He healed

How are they similar?

- Both come to Him **personally & openly**
- Both come to Him **contrary to cultural norms**
- Both know they will **not go unnoticed**
- Both come with **needs they cannot meet**
- Both come with **nothing to offer**
- Both came as **unacceptable to the religious establishment**
- Both acknowledge Him as **"Lord"** (Lord = **"Supreme Authority"**)
- Both risk **death for doing it**

Jesus says, "I will come and heal him."

- Does the Centurion say, "Oh Thank you! I hoped you would?" **No.**

"**Lord,**" the centurion replied, "**I am not worthy to have You come under my roof.**" (5:3)

He continues, "But **just say the word**, and my servant will be healed." (5:5&7)

- **Demonstrating his faith** that Jesus is **"The Supreme Authority"**
- Do you think he believed Caesar could, or would do that?

Then he says, "For **I too am a man under authority**, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

"Hearing this, **Jesus was amazed** and said to those following Him, 'I assure you: **I have not found anyone in Israel with so great a faith!**"

Jesus knows **this man believes He is The Supreme Authority**

- He would not have asked it of anyone less

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" (Matt. 16)

Then He said, "But **who do you say that I am?**"

The Roman Centurion knew **who He IS...**

- He **counted the cost**, and **willingly demonstrated it**
- We need to be **just as confident & committed**
- **To Him and each other**
- The Centurion did it **for his servant**

Jesus then states the future of **those who believe in Him** (Vs. 11-12)

- And those who believe **they are entitled**

“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.”

The leper & Centurion both believed **Jesus could heal**

- And hoped He would

But their **belief in who He IS**, is what brought them to Him

- Whether He granted their desire, or not

.....

**How much are we be willing to give up for Christ?**

- We need to **relinquish everything to Him now**, ahead of time
- **No requirements & no guarantees**
- So if & when it is required, we’ll **already have decided it.**

.....

This story isn’t about healing...

It’s about entrusting ourselves to Him **completely...**

Because of **who He IS!**