

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

MATTHEW 8:5-13

LESSON: FAR-REACHING AUTHORITY — February 3, 2019

INTRODUCTION/SYNOPSIS:

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT BUILDING HIS HOUSE ON A ROCK VERSES SAND

7:24-29 Jesus' continues His Sermon on the Mount. Whoever hears God's instructions and do them will be compared to a wise man who builds his house on a rock. So, when the rain, the floods, and the wind descend down and began to beat upon his house, it will not fall because it was founded upon a rock! However, the one who hears God's instructions, but obey them not, then they are compared to a foolish man building his house upon sand. The rain, the floods, and the wind will come down and beat upon his house, and it will greatly fall. Jesus ends His Sermon and the people are astonished at His doctrine because He taught with such authority in contrast to the Scribes who did not teach with authority, but just oral tradition losing their audience.

JESUS HEALS A LEPER

8:1-4 As Jesus had come down from the mountain, there was a great multitude following Him. A leper came and began to worship Him and said, "*Lord if you are willing, you can make me whole.*" The Lord touched him and said, "*I will, be cleansed!*"¹ After Jesus touched and healed the leper. He told him to go to the priest and offer the proper sacrifice for cleansing as Moses had prescribed in the Law (Lev.14). Jesus said this would be a testimony to the priests because in the entire history of Israel, there was no record of any Israelite being healed from leprosy other than Miriam.

LESSON: I. THE FAITH OF A GENTILE MATTHEW 8:5-9

THE CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED

8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,— As Jesus entered into Capernaum, He was met by a centurion begging Him. Notice the unusual things about this situation:

1. The centurion was a Gentile and a Roman officer/captain, yet he came to a Jew for help. Approaching a Jew was socially unacceptable and unheard of for a Gentile, but being an officer of Rome made it worse. And Jesus knew that the centurion had great courage and humility to approach Him for help.

8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

2. The centurion came to Jesus saying "*Lord*" acknowledging His superior being and Messiahship. He approached Him as the One who could meet his need.
 - He knew and confessed that he had a need. Knowing and confessing are both essential when a person really wants a need to be met.
 - He knew where to go and to whom to go to in order to have his need met.
 - He was willing to do all he could to have his need met. He trusted Jesus to satisfy his need.

The centurion could have let many barriers stand in his way: pride, money, doubt, language, distance, power, even race. But he didn't! This was not for his family member, but this was for

his servant of his household who was sick. And this was not just a sickness that medicine could help. This was a spiritual matter. He was sick of the palsy, meaning paralyzed, grievously tormented, meaning racking with pain that medicine couldn't help with no known cure, but Jesus healed him.

8:7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

3. Jesus was aroused by the centurion's love for a slave. The centurion was pouring out his heart for another person. He's interceding for the servant. This is a great lesson for us. As believers, we are to love not only those close to us, but all.
4. Jesus was aroused by the centurion to say *"I will."* These words *"I will"* show that Jesus will overcome all the barriers and divisions of men to meet a man's need. Jesus will come and heal anyone who truly trusts Him: master or servant, noble or common, parent or child, rich or poor, man or woman, sinner or saint, doomed or saved, helpless or capable, hopeless or assured. Jesus has no favorites! He opens the door to all. He does not favor one person over another.

8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. The centurion answers Jesus:

5. The centurion was aroused by the power of Jesus in the sense of (his) unworthiness. The centurion didn't say *"My servant is not worthy to have you come"*, but he said *"I am not not worthy."* A sense of personal unworthiness gripped him. He confessed his inadequacy and unworthiness to have the Lord come under his roof to help him. But, he asked the Lord to just *"speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed."* That's radical and bold, for I don't know if he considered it *"faith"* as we would, or just considered what authority meant to him.

8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. Society considered the centurion (who was over 100 soldiers) greater than the poor preacher from Nazareth.

6. As a centurion, he had authority over men. All he had to do was issue an order and it was carried out, whether he was present or not. He was a sovereign commander. Therefore, he was saying, how much more are you, O Lord? As the centurion could say *"Go"*, *"Come"* or *"Do"*, so can the Lord Jesus Christ speak the *"Word"* only, and the need shall be met.

II. THE RESPONSE OF THE LORD MATTHEW 8:10-13

8:10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. Jesus' response to the centurion was of *"wonder and amazement"* of what he had said. He began to say to those that followed, *"Truly, I haven't seen so great faith like this in all the land of Israel."* If the centurion didn't consider it to be faith, Jesus certainly did! He said it to all that followed. This hated Gentile centurion's genuine faith put to shame the stagnant piety of many of the Jewish religious leaders.

8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with

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Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus continued to tell those that followed: Many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus used the centurion's great faith to predict a great revival among Gentiles in the future. The centurion was an illustration, a foreshadowing of the coming conversion of the Gentiles.

8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. While the Gentiles will be coming into the kingdom of heaven, the *"children of the kingdom"* (the ones that had natural claim; the Jews) will lose their claim to the kingdom, and be cast out into outer darkness. Why? - Because Jesus' power will reject the unbelieving despite the fact they had been chosen to be the children of God, and had been given so many privileges, unless they follow the example of the centurion. If not, then terrible suffering occurs— *"there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

8:13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. The people can really see what great faith is now, because Jesus didn't go to the centurion's house, but told him to *"go on home; what he had believed has happened, so be it done (Amen) unto him."* And it happened just as Jesus said; just as the centurion believed. The servant was healed the same hour it was predicted by Jesus; at the time of His spoken Word!

SUMMARY:

As Jesus entered into Capernaum, He was met by a centurion begging Him to heal his servant who was grievously tormented sick of the palsy. Jesus said He would come and heal him. And he confessed his inadequacy and unworthiness to have Jesus come under his roof to help him. He knew what authority meant, for he had authority over men and he could tell them to go, come, or do and the order would be carried out. So, if the Lord Jesus Christ spoke the *"Word"* only, the need would be met (8:5-9).

Jesus heard what the centurion had said and marveled at it, causing Him to say to the followers that He hadn't seen such great faith, not in all of Israel. And that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. While the Gentiles shall be able to come into the kingdom of heaven because they believed, the chosen children of the kingdom because of unbelief will be rejected and cast out into outer darkness, and suffer with *"weeping and gnashing of teeth"*, unless they follow the example of the centurion. Jesus' great power shall reject the unbelieving. Great faith was seen that day because Jesus didn't go to the centurion's house, but told him to *"go on home; and what he had believed has happened."*

And the servant was healed at that very hour Jesus proclaimed it (8:10-13).