

UNDER AUTHORITY: Faith in Blue

LUKE 7:1-10

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #FaithinBlue

Amazing Servants Have Viral Christlike Character.

1. See Others with **Humanity** (1-5, 7).
2. See Yourself with **Humility** (4, 6-8).
3. See Jesus with **Hope** (7-10).

Luke 7:1-10

“After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ²Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. ³When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue.”

⁶And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. ⁷Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed.

⁸For I too am a man set 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.”

⁹When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” ¹⁰And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.” (ESV)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. The most astounding part of this story at first glance is Israel's overwhelming love and support for this Roman Centurion. How did the centurion behave towards his neighbors, behavior that ought to inspire us, as we think about our activities ministering to our neighbors?
2. Why does the centurion humble himself instead of emphasizing his good works? Why should we do the same? Why is faith difficult when we can't see assurance for what is hoped for?
3. Why is Jesus someone we can humble ourselves before and present bold requests?

Quote for the Week. . .

by Bruce Ware



"We live in a culture that despises authority at every level. Whether the authority of police, or of government, or of parents, or a husband's authority in marriage, or pastoral authority in our churches – our culture has programmed us to despise authority. We find it hard to think positively about authority for one very simple reason: We are sinners who want to be in charge of our own lives. We want to be captains of our own destiny. We want to govern our own futures. And here, one of the lessons of the Trinity is that God loves what we despise; namely, God loves, exercises, and embraces rightful authority – submission relationships. God loves this authority-submission structure because God embodies this very structure in His Trinitarian relations of Persons."

Bruce Ware. *Father, Son and Holy Spirit*, Crossway, 2005, p. 37.