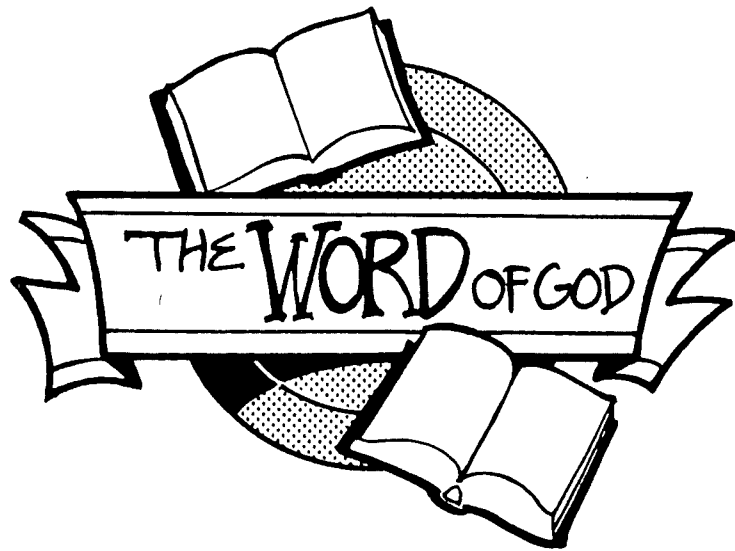


# HEALING

# “AUTHORITY”

(The Healing Of The Centurion's Servant)

Matthew 8:5-13



## **A Compassionate Army Officer**

- The Anxious Request (v.5,6)
- The Authority Recognized (v.7-10)
- The Awful Reminder (v.11,12)
- The Answer Received (v.13)

*“I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me:  
and I say to this man, Go , and he goeth ... Verily I say unto you,  
I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” (v.9,10)*

Bill Kirk

# “HEALING AUTHORITY”

**Text:** Matthew 8:5-13  
**Subject:** The Healing Of The Centurion’s Servant

“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... verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel” (Vs. 9,10)

## Introduction

In Matthew 7:29 – Jesus taught with authority,  
In Matthew 8:3 – Jesus touched with authority,  
In Matthew 8:13 – Jesus exercised His authority...

...authority to receive sinners,  
...authority to answer prayer,  
...authority to warn the unsaved,  
...authority to respond to faith in His Name!

## “Authority” Is Defined As:

- #1. The power to enforce an order.
- #2. The power to take action and make decisions.
- #3. The power or the right to give commands.
- #4. The power to give approval or grant permission.

**Fact:** Jesus said, “All power is given unto Me” (Matthew 28:18)

**Fact:** Revelation 19:6 declared, “Alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth”.

**Ask:** Do you believe that Jesus reigns?

**Ask:** Do you believe that Jesus has all power and authority?

◆ Our text reveals what happens when we believe what the centurion believed.

## I. The Anxious Request (Vs. 5,6)

“And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a centurion, beseeching Him” (v. 5)

### (What Is A Centurion?)

- A. A centurion was an officer in the Roman army.
- B. This officer was in charge of 100 men.
- C. He was a man of character with a great sense of duty.
- D. This particular centurion, rebuilt at his own expense, one of the Jewish synagogues in the town where he was stationed. (Luke 7:1-10)

**Question:** What was the centurion’s problem?

**Answer:** His servant was dear to him (Luke 7:2), and was sick with the palsy.

**Question:** What was palsy?

**Answer:** This was a paralysis with excruciating pain.

**Question:** Why did the centurion approach and appeal to Jesus?

**Answer:** Because His request grew out of conviction that Jesus had the ability and the authority to grant him his petition. (Repeat)

**Question:** How did Jesus respond to the appeal?

**Answer:** (V. 7), “I will come and heal him”.

**Question:** What did the centurion say in response to Jesus (what millions do today).

**Answer:** “The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy” (v. 8)

- #1. He was a man of war, (Jesus was a man of peace).
- #2. He was a Gentile, (Jesus was a Jew).

#3. He was a distance away from the servant he requested prayer for.

**Question:** What is the hold-up?

**Answer:** "I am not worthy Lord" (v. 8)

**Fact:** The centurion's friends in Luke 7:4,5 said, "He is worthy".

**Fact:** The centurion says, "I'm not worthy". (Matthew 8:8)

- ◆ Do you have an appeal or request of our healing Jesus?
- ◆ Do you ever feel unworthy for Jesus to answer your petition?
- ◆ Do you know that Jesus has answered every objection of Satan as to why you feel unworthy?

### **Unworthy Feelings Result From Blindness To The Truth**

#### **Conviction**

(VS)

#### **Condemnation**

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| #1. Is from God.....                               | Is from <u>satan</u>              |
| #2. Leads you <u>to</u> Jesus.....                 | Cuts you off <u>from</u> Jesus    |
| #3. Pulls you <u>upward</u> .....                  | Beats you <u>downward</u>         |
| #4. <u>Unites</u> you to God.....                  | <u>Separates</u> you from God     |
| #5. Is <u>freedom</u> and joy.....                 | Is <u>bondage</u> and heaviness   |
| #6. Is full of power & love.....                   | Is full of torment & <u>pain</u>  |
| #7. Leads to <u>repentance</u> .....               | Leads to <u>remorse</u>           |
| #8. Says, "You are <u>special</u> to God".....     | Says, "You are no <u>good</u> "   |
| #9. Says, "Get <u>going</u> ", you'll make it..... | Says, "Give <u>up</u> its no use" |
| #10. Promotes <u>relationship</u> .....            | Promotes <u>rebellion</u>         |
| #11. Speaks to a <u>specific</u> sin.....          | Covers you like a <u>cloud</u>    |
| #12. Delivers you from <u>inferiority</u> .....    | Keeps you <u>insecure</u>         |
| #13. Possesses the healthy <u>fear</u> of God..... | Makes you <u>afraid</u> of God    |
| #14. Ends in <u>life</u> .....                     | Ends in <u>death</u>              |

◆ "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1)

**Question:** What are you saying when you feel unworthy?

**Answer:** You are saying the unthinkable:

- #1... That the Blood of Jesus shed at Calvary was not sufficient to cover your sin in God's sight.
- #2... That God's justice has not been satisfied in the sacrifice of His Son.
- #3... That you must work harder to earn and deserve God's grace on your behalf.
- #4... That you are a lesser Christian in comparison to others.
- #5... That you must add to the finished work already completed.
- #6... That you cannot receive the full pardon that God so richly provides.
- #7... That you can improve on God's plan from eternity past.

## **II. The Authority Recognized (Vs. 7-10)**

"Lord, I'm not worthy that you should come under my roof; but speak the Word only, and my servant shall be healed" (v.8)

**Question:** Where did this centurion get such great faith?

**Question:** How did he believe that Jesus could answer from long distance?

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**Question:** What opened the door for faith to fill his soul?

**(One Thing Alone – The Understanding Of Authority)**  
**“Just speak the Word and healing will come”**

**Question:** How was faith born in his soul?

**Answer:** “For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me”, (v. 9)  
“and I say to one, go, (and he goeth)”  
“and to another come, (and he cometh)”  
“and to my servant, do this (and he doeth it)”

**(In Other Words Jesus)**

“As people are under me to exercise my orders, so devils and disease are under your authority and must obey your orders”.

**Fact:** The centurion officer sees the parallel that we must see.

**Fact:** It’s the parallel between the way he commands his soldiers (and the way Jesus commands sickness and disease).

**(In Simple Terms)**

- #1. The centurion and Jesus were both under authority (and therefore had the right to exercise authority).
- #2. All they had to do was say the word and things happened.
- #3. “Jesus, I say go, or come do this, and my desires are carried out by my soldiers”.
- #4. “So Jesus, I know that even more than like on my job in the army, you can speak and say the word and everything on earth is subject to your authority. (Everything)

**(How Does Jesus Respond?)**

“When Jesus heard it, he marveled and said to them that followed, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel” (v. 10)

**Question:** What was it that gave the officer great assurance?

**Question:** What gave the officer great faith to believe?

**Question:** How was this faith born and initiated?

**Question:** What is it that God wants us to trust in and believe in today?

- ◆ That as a human officer in the Roman army could speak and see his wishes carried out,
- ◆ So, we are to believe that Jesus can speak and see His wishes carried out as well!

**Fact:** Something happens when we understand Jesus’ authority!

**Fact:** The officer said, “Jesus, just say the Word, and my servant will be healed”

1. He knew there was no need of some magical formula.
2. He knew there was no need of any \$10.00 prayer cloth to order by phone.
3. He knew there was no need for special oil from the Holy Land.

**(Why Not?)**

- ◆ Because the centurion knew one thing: That every pain and sickness and trial and disappointment (whatever you encounter) is under the authority of Jesus. (And that was good enough for him to petition for answered prayer).

**Question:** Why did Jesus call it “Great Faith”? (v. 10)

**Answer:** Because the centurion asked for no sign, he only believed in Christ’s authority!

- ◆ The man was confident in Jesus’ power.
- ◆ The man was sure of Jesus’ authority.
- ◆ The man was trusting in Jesus’ Word.

(The man knew Ecclesiastes. 8:4: "Where the word of a king is, there is power").

### III. The Awful Reminder (Vs. 11,12)

(V. 11), Many believers will join Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in glory.

(V. 12), But many of the "Children of the kingdom" (those by natural birth, the seed of Abraham, but lacking Abraham's faith) "Will be cast out into outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth" (eternally lost).

- ◆ "Weeping" (great grief to suffer)
- ◆ "Gnashing of teeth" (great resentments to suffer) (Why?)
- ◆ Because they remained unrepentant!!!
- ◆ They refused to be born again!
- ◆ They refused to confess their sins to God!
- ◆ They refused to say yes to Jesus!
- ◆ They thought they were okay because of their nationality.
- ◆ They thought they were okay because of their good works.
- ◆ They thought they were okay because of some tradition or religious upbringing...

...But they forfeited their inheritance and were found in outer darkness.

...All because they refused to repent and agree with God about their sin,

...And receive eternal life through the blood of Christ to forgive all sin.

### IV. The Answer Received (V. 13)

"As you have believed, so be it unto thee; and his servant was healed in the selfsame hour"  
(v. 13)

#### (What A Miracle)

#1. An instantaneous cure from long distance.

#2. Answer to prayer by "Remote control".

#3. Grace that triumphs in an unlikely place. (Why?)

- ◆ Because the centurion, (with soldiers under him,) knew that Jesus was a higher authority than himself...

...and that devils must flee at His command!

...prayers are answered at His command!!!

...people are changed at His command!

...grace is poured out at His command!

...fear is subdued at His command!

...sin's power is broken at His command!

...the Word produces faith at His command!

**AMEN!**  
Bill Kirk, Pastor