

Jesus and the Captain

BY T.L. OSBORN

IN THE GOSPEL of Matthew, there is the account of a centurion who came to Jesus, asking Him to heal his servant. Mat.8:5-13

This biblical story unfolds in a town called Capernaum. There, the army captain approached Jesus about his servant's incurable sickness. He said, *Lord, he is lying at home paralyzed, grievously tormented.*^{v.6}

Jesus responded to the man saying, *I will come and heal him.*^{v.7}

The captain said, *Oh, Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; if you will just speak the word, my servant will be healed.*^{v.8}

When Jesus heard the captain's words, He marvelled and said to those that followed Him, I have not found so great faith.^{v.10}

Then He said to the army captain, Go your way and as you have believed, so be it done unto you. And his servant was healed in that very hour.^{v.13}

That is a true story of real faith, the kind of faith that pleases God.

The Bible tells us, *Without faith it is impossible to please God.* He.11:6

You might say, "Oh, I can never have that faith." But I want to encourage you to believe that you *can* have faith in God — *anyone* can.

You have faith in your own words. You have faith in your neighbors. You have faith in your government and in your doctor. You can have faith in God.

He is real and He wants you to know that He loves you, just as you are. The Bible says, *His eyes are over the righteous and His ears are open unto their prayers.*^{1Pet.3:12}

Jesus assures you: *Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.* Mt. 7:7 Believe in His promises to you.

All over the world I have taught people the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I have told them about God's Word — His promises. As a result, I have seen the sick, the blind, the lame, and even lepers call upon Him and receive His peace in their hearts and His health in their bodies. He will do the same for you, whoever and wherever you are today.

Despite the fact that this captain held a prestigious position in the Roman army, He came to Jesus in great humility, asking for a miracle for his servant. And he received what he asked for.

The Bible tells of many others who came to Christ and were healed. Both an outcast leper and a commanding

officer of the Roman Army came to Jesus in great humility, appealing for help as sincerely as they knew how.

Some people, because of their social position, or employment, or business, or reputation, or academic status, are unwilling to humble themselves before the Lord. But I urge people everywhere that if they want to receive from Christ the blessings that people received in biblical times, then they must come to Him like people came to Him then.

Some of the greatest leaders and the most influential people in the world are faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

There is no greater honor than to be identified by faith in the Lord Jesus. He gives one peace, wisdom and new ability. He cleanses one's life of sins and give new health. He will bless you abundantly. But you must humble yourself to receive Him.

This captain told the Master that his servant was *grievously tormented and paralyzed*. Sickness is an awful enemy. It is not from God. It is from Satan. It is a killer, a murderer. It is a thief. It steals life, happiness, money and peace. It is a destroyer of our health, of our bodies and of our minds. It is of the Devil.

The captain said his servant was lying at home in bed. Sickness imprisons people, restricting them to a life of disease. It is not of God.

The captain said that his servant was in terrible agony. Sickness is a tormentor. It threatens our health and our lives. It creates pain throughout one's body and steals rest and happiness, peace and joy from one's life.

Sickness is a killer. God is a healer. Sickness brings death. God gives life. Health is of God. It is good. Jesus said, *Satan comes to kill, to steal and to destroy; but I am come that ye might have Life more abundantly.* Jn.10:10

Decide today to follow Jesus Christ and to receive His *Life* — His health — in your soul and in your body. He wants to give you His *Life* today.

This captain asked Jesus to heal his servant. Did Jesus say, "No, that is not my will?" Or did he respond, "No, I want him to learn some lessons from his incapacities and through his suffering?" No He did not say that.

He said, *I will come and heal him.*^{v.7}

Jesus never refused help to anyone. He never wants people to suffer. He came to give life and peace and health — *to destroy the works of the devil.*^{1Jn.3:8} Let Him come into your heart now and destroy the sin and the sickness in your life. Let Him take away your evil habits and give you His peace and health and *Life*.


The captain said: *Oh Lord, I'm not worthy for you to come under my roof; just speak the word and my servant will be healed.*^{v.8}

Jesus said, *I have not found such great faith... Go your way; as you have believed, so be it done unto you. And his servant was miraculously healed in that same hour.*
vs.10,13

Right now, trust the Word of the Lord like that captain did. He will make His promise good to you.

He said, *If you abide in me, ask what you desire and it will be done to you.* Jn.15:7
Come to me, and I will give you rest. Mt.11:28
If you can only believe, all things are possible to the one who believes. Mk.9:23

Yes, **all things are possible!** Believe that now. His Word is good this moment. He will save you and destroy the devil's influence in your life now.

He says to you what He said to the captain: *As you have believed, so be it done unto you.* Mt. 8:13 

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