

Sometimes members of the church like to departmentalize their lives. One section is their religion, another is their business, and a third is their home life. They do not see any reason to let their faith out of their religious segment. In their homes you will find evidence of sinful conduct. They may have immodest clothing in their closets, vulgar DVD's in their TV cabinet, and alcohol in their refrigerator. They do not see this as hypocrisy. They see religion as a different compartment. They may lie, cheat, and steal in business; but they also see no inconsistency here. They behave when in church. They attend, they give, they lead in prayer, and they teach Bible class. Surely that is all that can be expected of them. Business and home are different areas.

This is a common problem in the church. People feel they have fulfilled their obligation by attending for one hour. They fail to realize Christianity is a complete overhaul of every bit of our lives. Every thought, word, and action becomes submissive to the will of Christ. We cannot sit home on Sunday night and Wednesday evening. We cannot lie and lust without condemnation. We cannot give God a sliver of our lives and expect to reach heaven.

People join social clubs and athletic leagues that only get a small portion of their attention. As churches begin to resemble these organizations more and more, so they are looked at in the same way. They will give no thought to the "religious club" when they are outside of the meeting.

The centurion shows us the true definition of character. Someone defined character as what you do in the dark when you think no one is watching. It is your true make up. It transcends every aspect of your life. This is why Paul said he died and Christ lived in him (Gal. 2:20).
Ron Roberts

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

October 30, 2016

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Editor: Ron Roberts

**“Seven days
without prayer
makes one
weak”**

Announcements

Continue to pray for Joe and Wanda's grandson. He is out of the hospital and staying with his dad.

Dewey is in Miller's room 32. Try to visit him before long.

Do not forget Jill and Mary when you pray to the Father. They are both fighting cancer. God bless them as they display their faith under such trying circumstances.

Ron will be speaking in Knightsville tomorrow night. They have a week long meeting with different speakers each night.

This is a fifth Sunday which gives the men an opportunity to speak at the 5:00 service. Brian will be bringing the lesson tonight.

Didi will be looking into getting our website up and running. He will update us when things are ready.

A Man of Character

Luke 7:1-10 contains the narrative of the centurion's servant. Jesus was in Capernaum when the Jews approached him for the sake of a centurion who had an ill servant. Jesus miraculously heals the servant, but the part of the story we wish to focus on is the character of the man for whom this miracle was performed.

1. He was **responsible** in business. His job was a soldier. He was a centurion. This means he was in charge of one hundred men. He had authority and was obeyed by those under him. He said in verse 8, *"For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it."*

2. He was **generous** to the Jewish people. Although he was a Roman with power he did not abuse it. He was gracious to the Jews and had a good reputation with them. The Jews who came to Jesus on his behalf said he was *worthy* to receive the miracle. In verse 5 they said, *"For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue."* This was going way beyond what was expected or required of him.

3. He was **compassionate** toward the servant who was ill. How many masters could care less about their servants. They mistreat them, sell them, or even kill them. This Roman soldier was concerned enough about his ailing servant to ask for a miracle to heal him.

4. He was **humble**. The parallel passage in Matthew (Matt. 8:5-13) gives us the impression that the centurion spoke with Jesus directly, but Luke reveals that all the conversation was through spokesmen. He did not feel *worthy* to speak to Jesus directly. He did not feel he deserved the honor of having Jesus enter his house to do the healing either. We read in verse 6-7, *"Then Jesus went with them, And when He was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying unto Him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou*

shouldest enter under my roof. Wherefore neither thought myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed."

5. He was a man of **great faith**. Although he was not a Jew he believed in Jesus and His power to heal. He compelled the elders of the Jews to approach Jesus for him. When Jesus responded to the request he sent another message to Him. He recognized the power of authority in his own life. He did not have to personally go and do everything he wanted done. He could send a soldier or a servant and the task would be accomplished just as he ordered. He understood Jesus had this same authority over His healing powers. The Lord did not have to go and touch the servant to heal him. He could speak the command and the servant would be restored. Jesus said to those following Him, *"I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel"* (Lk. 7:9).

Matthew 8:11-12 adds these words from Jesus. *"And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* Jesus is foretelling the saving of the Gentiles (east and west) and the falling of the Jews who rejected Jesus and His Gospel. This soldier's great faith previewed the response of many Gentiles who would become more faithful than the self righteous and callous Jews.

The centurion helps us to see character is present in all areas of our life. We cannot be "good Christians" on Sunday and cheat in business on Monday. We cannot be faithful servants to the Lord while being uncaring toward our fellow man. We should be loving toward those who are in lesser positions in our society. We should be humble in all areas. The man was humble enough to help the Jews, to care about a servant, and to not approach Jesus himself. He felt unworthy to speak to Jesus. He would not try to command Jesus to help him. He had great faith in our Lord likely without ever seeing Him do a miracle. His faith surpassed that of the Jews who had summoned Christ.