

## DISCUSSION NOTES

Living Waters Church

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November 3, 2019 - Speaker - Dave Solmes

Text: Luke 7:1-10 - Jesus and Trust

**Introduction:** Relationships will move along at the speed of trust.

Question: What examples from work, family, or neighbours can you give?

**Context:** Jesus left the mountain and made His way to Capernaum.

It was kind of like moving from the classroom to the playground.

**Question:** Why does only studying and memorizing Scripture cause us to fall short of God's plan for our lives?

**Question:** In what way was the approach of the Jewish elders asking on behalf of the Roman Officer the way of the old covenant?

### **Answers for discussion:**

- Their attempt to build a case for God's charity.
- They were trying to create some kind of obligation for Jesus.
- They were trying to tip the scales for someone's benefit

Example: When we approach Jesus like that, the way the elders did, we are treating God like a type of discerning Santa Claus. But, God does not have a heavenly "naughty and nice" list.

### **Consider the officers words again:**

(Verse 3), "Jesus come and heal his slave".

The word is relational – Jesus I welcome you. A great act of worship.

Jesus, come and heal. I understand the authority you have over sickness and all of life. I honour you. I worship you. I trust your character.

(verse 7) "Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed."

"This is a highly relational request. The word "say" means, "lie down beside".

So, by faith the officer was asking Jesus to say His word. He was asking Jesus to place His word alongside the sick slave, bring His promises.

(verse 9) When Jesus heard this He turned to the crowd that was following him, He said, "I tell you, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!"

### **What is the difference between great faith, little faith, no faith?**

1. It not a difference of quantity. Faith is hard to understand if it is described quantifiably. ex. faith of a mustard seed. You can hardly even see it.

We do not have faith containers in our souls which overflow when our faith is great and nearly empty when our faith is little. Faith does not work like that.

The matter at hand is:

- Do you have faith or not?
- Do you we believe or not?
- Let your yes be yes and your No No!

2. Our Faith should not be measured based on what Jesus does or doesn't do.

In our text Jesus recognizes the officer's great faith and yet it doesn't seem that the slave had even been healed yet. Our faith and what Jesus does is not always congruent.

3. There are times when others with little or no faith, benefit because of the faith of someone else. This slave received a divine healing because of the initiation and faith of the officer.

### **Perhaps Faith is best understood in the context of a growing relationship that is established in trust and expressed through prayer.**

#### **#1. Great Faith Involves Trust**

Our faith will always falter if we don't fully trust Jesus.

Great trust / Great faith always takes on spiritual unbelief and addresses those things that could be different because of who Jesus is and what Jesus can do.

Question: How different would things be if we were continually inviting Jesus involvement? Throughout the day ... Throughout the evening ?

Question: What was the officer basing His faith and trust upon?

Answer: Jesus spoken word.

Romans 10:17 says, "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Without hearing and then understanding the Word of God, you will never have a great faith narrative. Actually, you will never even have little faith.

## #2. Great Faith Involves Prayer

Prayer is not an exercise of turning on a faith switch which suddenly increases Jesus power and authority.

- The truth is that you and I can't change God when we pray.
- The truth is prayer involves expressing the truths about God that we believe because of our faith in God.
- The truth is God draws near in response to our inviting
- The truth is we have not because we ask NOT

Luke 7:10. And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick. (in full health, to be sound in mind and body.)

Jesus drew near, and healed the slave because of the petitions of the Roman Centurion. Jesus can make a difference in your life and in the life of someone who has little and no faith at all.

Closing Questions:

Question: How can you welcome Jesus this week.

Question - How is the narrative of your life being shaped by Jesus response to your need and the need of our neighbour?

