**7 – Understanding of the Centurion**

*Matthew 8:5-13; Matthew 28:18*

**(v. 8) – *“I am not worthy”***

* Humility is incumbent upon us as created beings.
* The centurion recognized authority Christ possessed. This authority was to the degree of being able to heal miraculously. He understood Christ was a transcendent one.
	+ We must have humility, recognizing our unworthiness, in order to receive forgiveness.
	+ **Luke 18:9-14** – Tax collector, and Pharisee.
	+ ***Salvation is not rewarded to those who think themselves worthy, but to those who recognize their unworthiness and therefore need grace and mercy.***
	+ ***We are not to elevate ourselves to God’s level, but humbly come before him in full recognition that we are unworthy of His attention.***
	+ The only thing we are worthy of is death, but salvation is not of merit, but of grace (**cf. Romans 6:23**).

**(v. 8-9) – The centurion had a clear understanding of Christ’s authority and its implications.**

* Centurion – the captain of one hundred men. (century)
	+ He had an understanding of how authority works.
	+ One with authority is one with power. (It is actually translated to power in some translations in Matthew 28:18).
	+ When someone with authority gives a command within the boundaries of their authority it will be done.
	+ **They are not limited to having to be present, but need only give the command and their subordinates must follow.**
* The centurion recognized the limitless nature of Christ’s authority.
	+ **Matthew 28:18** – Jesus said He had ALL authority. He lacked none.
		- **If He commanded it was done**. Not only that, but His divine power transcended time and space.
		- **He didn’t have to be present for something to be accomplished**. If He said it, that was sufficient.
	+ Direct contact healing.
		- **Mark 5:25-28**
			* This was often the request given Jesus. This is likely because it was His common practice in healing people 🡪
			* **Mark 6:5; Luke 4:40** – When He healed someone He often laid hands on them.
				+ **This is likely why Jesus marveled (wondered; admired).**
				+ **It isn’t that Jesus was caught off guard (He knows all things) but that He recognized an understanding within the centurion that was greater than even the Jews.**
			* **This showed the centurions faith in the authority of Christ – Christ’s power, or authority, was not limited to close interactions. If He says something it will be accomplished.**
				+ ***Job 42:2 – “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.”***
				+ The power of God to salvation is not in any direct operation **(cf. Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:21)**.

Most in the world want salvation to occur via direct operation of the spirit. They felt something and knew they were saved. They felt God move within them. OR the saw a sign and knew they were saved.

They misunderstand the unlimited nature of Christ’s authority when they assume something else has to take place.

The word of Christ is sufficient because His authority is to the degree that if He says something it will be accomplished.

**Mark 16:16** – Jesus said it and that settles it. We need nothing else.

* + - * + The promises of God are related to His authority in that if He said so it will be accomplished.

We need to recognize and have faith in the nature of His authority.

By His authority His promises will be fulfilled (**cf. Hebrews 6:16-18)**.

There is no greater authority to swear by than God Himself. According to His authority it will be done.

So if we follow what He says is necessary for salvation there is no need for worry.

* + - * + **This all leads to another important implication in the centurion’s understanding of Christ’s authority. 🡪**

**(v. 9) – Connection between faith and submission to authority.**

* **Our belief is that which is required in all facets of Christ.**
	+ **We must not just believe that He is God, and the Anointed One, the savior of mankind, but that He is Lord. 🡪**
* **Matthew 28:18** – All authority suggests that Jesus is at the top of the chain of command and that He must be obeyed.
	+ **Luke 6:46 – Lord denotes supreme in authority. IF we accept this of Jesus then we must act on it.**
* **NO QUESTIONS**
	+ The centurion, as one having authority, recognized that he didn’t have to give an explanation to his regiment before they followed what he said.
	+ If he said to do something that meant they needed to do it.
* **Commands do not have to be direct.**
	+ In the case of the centurion he did not have to be the one actually doing something to get things accomplished. He sent commands that were relayed, and his subordinates did as they were told.
	+ **Christ put the stamp of approval, or authority, on the apostolic message – Matthew 28:18-20**
		- **Christ was no longer there directly commanding, but doing so through inspiration (cf. John 16:5-15)**
			* **Pleasing God does not just require some emotional love as the world would contend, but a submission to His authority.**
			* **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – If all scripture is inspired by God then it is authoritative and must be followed.
			* **Colossians 3:17** – We cannot limit Christ’s authority to only the areas we desire to follow. It is all encompassing. If we don’t follow Him in one area we call Him Lord and do not the things He says.