

## AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Centurion’s Faith in Remote Control” Luke 7

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 7:1-10

### 1. The Roman centurion’s deeds and faith in the Lord’s authority

- a. This unnamed centurion, who was in a position of colonial occupier and oppressor to the people of Israel, loved the Jewish people and built a synagogue for the local populace [v. 5]. Very likely, he attended a number of the synagogue meetings and became acquainted with the Scriptures.
- b. A group of Jewish elders came to the Lord on behalf of the centurion voluntarily and spoke on his behalf, beseeching to help him with his request. [v. 3-4]
- c. The centurion had deep care and concern for his servant, who fell seriously ill. And he did not hesitate to send for help to the true source of help. [v. 3]
- d. The centurion’s understanding of Jesus: The depth of his understanding of the true identity of Jesus is not all clear. However, he recognized Jesus as one of heavenly authority who had the power to heal diseases, even remotely. In the age when the concept of remote control was unknown, he believed the Lord could heal his servant in a remote-control way. “Just say it and I know your command will take effect.” [v. 7] What marvelous faith he had! So, rightly the Lord praised his faith and met his request through a remote action.
- e. Even in the oppressive colonial Roman army there were men of true hearts such as this centurion and Cornelius.

### 2. Lessons for us

- a. Care and concern for our neighbors
  - Do we have the same concern and care for those in need, both physically and spiritually?  
*He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy. [Prov. 14: 31]*
  - When we have the heart of God, it causes us to have mercy and empathy for the needy.
- b. Obedience to God’s authority
  - Obedience of Jesus: Even Jesus learned obedience through suffering.  
*Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him [Heb. 5: 8-9]*
  - This centurion recognized the heavenly authority of Jesus and honored it. Do we honor the authority of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Lord of lords?
- c. Charity work for God’s people
  - The centurion’s view of the people of Israel was not as an inferior people that had to be oppressed and exploited when the acts of oppression and exploitation of the colonized peoples were of common practice to the mighty Roman military. He saw these people as God’s chosen people and committed his resources to help out for their spiritual worship and studies.
  - His genuine love for the people of Israel won the hearts of the callous Jewish elders.
  - What genuine care and concern do we show to God’s children in need?