

Luke 7:1-10

¹ When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum.

² There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die.

³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant.

⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this,

⁵ because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue."

⁶ So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.

⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.

⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.
(NIV)

Luke 7:1 VEpeidh. evplh,rwsen pa,nta ta. r`h,mata auvtou/ eivj ta.j avkoa.j tou/ laou/(eivsh/lqen eivj Kafarnaou,mÅ

Epeidh. After

After he had finished his in the hearing of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

2 ~Ekatonta,rcou de, tinoj dou/loj kakw/j e;cwn h;mellen teleuta/n(o]j h=n auvtw/| e;ntimojÅ

And a certaom Centurian had a servant who was ill, about to die. He was precious to him.

3 avkou,saj de. peri. tou/ VIhsou/ avpe,steilen pro.j auvto.n presbute,rouj tw/n VIoudai,wn evrwtw/n auvto.n o[pwj evlqw.n diasw,sh| to.n dou/lon auvtou/Å

diasw,sh| (diasozo) He might save, heal,

And having heard concerning Jesus he sent to him Elders of the Jews asking him so that coming he might save / heal his servant.

4 oi` de. parageno,menoi pro.j to.n VIhsou/n pareka,loun auvto.n spoudai,wj le,gontej o[ti a;xio,j evstin w-| pare,xh| tou/to\

parageno,menoi (perf., pass., part.,) having come, arrived

And having arrived to Jesus, they earnestly asked him, earnestly, saying that he is worthy to cause this.

5 avgapa| ga.r to. e;qnoj h`mw/n kai. th.n sunagwgh.n auvto.j wv|kodo,mhsen h`mi/n

For he loves our nation and he built our synagogue for us.

6 o` de. VIhsou/j evporeu,eto su.n auvtoi/j h;dh de. auvtou/ ouv makra.n avpe,conto.j avpo. th/j oivki,aj e;pemyen fi,louj o` e`katonta,rchj le,gwn auvtw/\ ku,rie(mh. sku,llou(ouv ga.r i`kano,j eivmi i[na u`po. th.n ste,ghn mou eivse,lqh|j\

And Jesus went with them, and when he was already gone a far distance from the house the centurian sent a friend, saying to him, 'Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I am not worthy for you to enter under my roof.

7 dio. ouvde. evmauto.n hvxi,wsa pro.j se. evlqei/n\ avlla. eivpe. lo,gw|(kai. ivaqh,tw o` pai/j mou

For, neither am I worthy for you to come to me, but say the word and my servant will be healed.

8 kai. ga.r evgw. a;nqrwpo,j eivmi u`po. evxousi,an tasso,menoj e;cwn u`pV evmauto.n stratiw,taj(kai. le,gw tou,tw\ poreu,qhti(kai. poreu,etai(kai. a;llw\ e;rcou(kai. e;rcetai(kai. tw/ dou,lw| mou\ poi,hson tou/to(kai. poiei/

For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers, appointed under me. And I say to this (one) go, and he goes, and to another come, and he comes, and the my servant do this, and he does it.

9 avkou,saj de. tau/ta o` VIhsou/j evqau,masen auvto.n kai. strafei.j tw/ avkolouqou/nti auvtw/ o;clw| ei=pen\ le,gw u`mi/n(ouvde. evn tw/ VIsrah.l tosau,thn pi,stin eu-ron

And Jesus, having heard these things, marveled at him, and having turned to the multitude following him said, 'I say to you, neither in Israel such faith have I found.'

10 Kai. u`postre,yantej eivj to.n oi=kon oi` pemfqe,ntej eu-ron to.n dou/lon u`giai,nonta

u`giai,nonta

And having returned to the house, the ones sent found the servant well / healed.

John 3:7-8 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

INTRO - In 1954 my grandmother, my Father's mother died. I don't remember her. But, I do remember my grandfather, of whom I've told you time and again. As the years have gone on I've realized more and more how much he missed his wife. Yet, in spite of his grief, he continued to live trying to do God's will, persevering as a child of God. He did not do this because he was so strong. He did this because he trusted in God to help and guide him.

I. In our lesson today we see a man who continues acting in a godly way in the midst of tragedy, pain, illness, and impending death.

A. The centurion was a man who cared about his servant.

1. He cared so much he sent a group of Jewish Synagogue Leaders to Jesus to plead for the life of his beloved servant and friend.
2. When faced with the tough reality of life he did not give up, but he kept seeking to live in love.

B. What allowed this centurion to act in hope and love, in spite of the fact that his servant was near death? This man trusted Jesus, and so He continued to act with hope, and love, and faithfulness.

II. Let me tell you about what members of the church faced this past Thursday.

A. It was a rough day.

1. I started out the day calling people to make calls on some of our more elderly or ill members. When I called the home of Rick Guhl, I was told he was on his way to the hospital, ultimately because of a minor heart attack.
2. Later that day I got a call from a mom. Her recent college graduate son, for whom we'll pray today, was diagnosed with a brain tumor.
3. Then I went to a 'Meet and Beat' gathering for Rhys Allen that afternoon. Rhys is the toddler grandson of Bill and Sharon Allen. He has been diagnosed with an especially aggressive form of leukemia.
4. That doesn't include other people whom I talked to facing serious trials.
5. In addition this week we heard of a school burning in the Talkeetna area. We heard of accusations of unethical behavior by politicians.

B. When life is full of such trials, where does one get faith to keep going?

III. The Word of God leads us to some answers as to the source for faith which gives the ability to face the trials of life.

A. First, let me tell you that God works differently in everyone's life.

1. John 3:8 says, **8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.**"
2. 1 Corinthians 12:11 says, **All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, JUST AS HE DETERMINES.**
3. God works faith in us by the Spirit, and we cannot tell God how to act.

B. However, our lesson for today gives clues.

1. First, the centurion, the man who had such faith that Jesus himself marveled, was sure of one thing about himself, that is his unworthiness.

A. He could have been considered unworthy because of his nationality. He was a Roman, and Jesus a Jew.

- B. He could have been considered unworthy because he was a non- Jew, and Jesus was a prophet.
 - C. He could have been considered unworthy because he knew his sin, and Jesus was the son of God, but the centurion said that he was unworthy to have Jesus in his house, unworthy to even come to him.
 - D. His faith, rather than trusting in himself, knew he had nothing to offer God.
2. But, while this centurion knew he could not trust himself, he knew certain things about Jesus.
 - A. He had heard of the miracles, so he knew of Jesus’ power.
 - B. Hearing of the miracles he had heard of Jesus’ compassion and love for others.
 - C. Knowing the leaders of the synagogue, he had heard the rumors about Jesus possibly being the Messiah.
 3. Knowing his unworthiness, but the power, and love, and mission of Jesus, the man had faith, not in himself, but in Jesus, to act in hope and love.
 1. He persevered.
 2. He continued to act in life in spite of the pain and trial he felt.
- C. God works faith today by His Spirit.
1. He promises to work faith in His Word, and through the Sacraments.
 2. Today we have a whole family being strengthened in faith by the working of God in baptism.
 3. But, as we seek faith that helps us to face life, we not only trust to God’s working, we also know what that faith will look like.
 - A. Faith that helps us face life, does not trust ourselves, it knows we are sinful, we are weak, and fallible.
 - B. Faith that helps us face life, simply looks to Jesus, and his power, and His love, and His being the Son of God.

CONCLUSION - I went to the ‘Meet and Beat’ reception for 3 year old Rhys Allen on Thursday. I was asked to pray. I did not pray because I trusted myself, but knowing my failure, I trusted God. I did not pray knowing how God will answer. But, I know that in His power God can do all things, and bring healing. And I know that God loves the whole world, including Rhys. That knowledge, in the face of life’s tough blows, can keep a person going, persevering in hope, and love through Faith. Amen.