

## Centurion's Servant

Mt 8:5-13, Lk 7:1-10

John 4:46-54 noble's son, different event

### Exposition

"I also am a man under authority"

In order to *have* authority, you must be *under* authority

The Centurion cites his understanding of authority as the basis for his faith that Jesus not only could, but would, heal his servant. He said; "For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." (Luke 7:8)

Notice that the Centurion says that he is "also" under authority. He is saying that he and Jesus have something in common - being under authority. Though Jesus is part of the triune God, upon the earth He submitted himself to his heavenly Father. As a child, Jesus submitted to his earthly parents, though he did demonstrate to them He was ultimately here to do God's will (see Luke 2:49). During his adult ministry he said "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." (John 5:19)

And, "just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; **27** and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man. **28** "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, **29** and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment. **30** "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

In order to *have* authority, you must be *under* authority. If it was necessary for the Son of God to be guided by His father's authority which revealed itself in His plans and purposes for the Son, we should not expect to be exceptions to this truth. See what Jesus told the disciples right before he ascended into heaven after his resurrection; "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." (Matthew 28:18) Jesus humbled himself and submitted to the Father's authority and he then possessed ALL His authority.

What does it look like when authority is exercised?

The one with authority brings it to bear on the reality that does not exceed the authority being spoken over it.

Look at last week-Luke 9:5-7

"Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk '?" **6** "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" -- then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." **7** And he got up and went home....

There is a way things work in spiritual, just as there are natural laws.

Dan 10:10 angel withstood

11 He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. **12** Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that **you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God,** your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. **13** "**But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me,** for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. **14** "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen.

More on angels

**Mt 26:53** Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

**Heb 1:13** But to which of the angels has He ever said... **14** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

**Mt 4:6, Lk 4:10** "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"...(quoting Ps 91:12)

**Mt 18:10** "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

**Is 63:7** I shall make mention of the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, According to all that the LORD has granted us, And the great goodness toward the house of Israel, Which He has granted them according to His compassion And according to the abundance of His lovingkindness **8** For He said, "Surely, they are My people, Sons who will not deal falsely." So He became their Savior. **9** In all their affliction He was afflicted, **And the angel of His presence saved them;** In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old.

More verses on the way things work in the kingdom

**Mk 11:22,3** Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.

**Mt 6:9** "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. [10](#) 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

### Questions

Why did Jesus marvel at centurion?

How was centurion's faith in Jesus different than the "sons of the kingdom" (Mt 8:12, not in Luke's acct) ?

How can your prayer life, and faith in God, imitate or "work with" the way the kingdom works?