

29th June 2025

'The Centurion who surprised Jesus'

LUKE 7.1-10



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There are two occasions when Jesus expresses surprise...and they both have to do with the expression of faith. Here in Luke 7 we have a bold expression of faith from a Gentile.

Hebrew 11.6 *'Without faith it is impossible to please God.'*

1. A Desperate Need 7.2

The Roman centurion has a servant who is gravely ill.

2. A Determined Approach 7.3-6

Civic leaders approach Jesus on his behalf. There are surprises with this centurion – he's a man of surprising kindness and generosity together with a deep concern for his servant.

3. A Distinct Expectancy 7.6b-9

A second delegation is sent to Jesus...*I am not worthy* (no matter what the civic leaders say!) but *'say the word and my servant will be healed.'*

When Jesus heard the centurion's explanation *he was amazed* (surprised).

4. A Delightful Miracle 7.10

The messengers returned to the house and *found the servant well*.

Build your own acrostic for **FAITH**:

F –

A –

I –

T –

H –

'Lord increase our faith' Luke 17.5

Questions for reflection and discussion in Growth Groups:

1. Discuss for a few minutes your own experience of being surprised?
2. In what ways is 'active faith' to be an essential characteristic of our discipleship?
Look at the second occasion where Jesus expresses surprise, this time for a distinct lack of faith expressed – Mark 6.5.
3. When have you made a specific faith filled approach to Jesus and asked him something very specific? Maybe share within your group.
4. The centurion declares his understanding of authority and how it relates to who Jesus is. What principles can you apply to your own life through the testimony of this centurion? Why does Jesus say that he has not found such great faith in Israel?
5. Hebrews 11 is the great chapter – Heroes of faith. Choose one and observe how their faith was commended.