

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is it sometimes necessary for people to experience a dire need before calling upon God?
2. How great was the faith of the centurion?
3. What is faith?
4. How could we exercise a faith, like that of the centurion, today?
5. How do we grow in faith?

SUMMARY:

The faith of the centurion was so great that he did not deem it necessary for Jesus to enter his home and touch his servant. He believed that if Jesus could help others by touching them, His power was great enough that by His spoken word alone, men could be healed.

We today must have this absolute faith in the power of God that is sufficient for even the “impossible” problems of life. This is especially true spiritually. We **must** have this kind of faith if we are to be healed of our sickness and to be restored to life.

NOTES:

[SoF:7] We believe that sinners may have salvation by repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #8

November 23, 2014

Fourth Quarter

AN EXAMPLE OF FAITH

LESSON TEXT: *Matthew 8:5-13*

LESSON SETTING: Christ comes down from the mountain, followed by multitudes.

TIME: After the sermon on the mount.

- I. THE NEED OF FAITH.** Matthew 8:5-6
 - A. A Dire Need (vs. 6) 2 Kings 18:28-37
 - B. Need Leads to Faith (vs. 6) 2 Kings 19:14-15; Luke 7:3
- II. THE CERTAINTY OF FAITH.** Matthew 8:7-9
 - A. Promise of Jesus (vs. 7) Mark 11:24; Luke 11:9
 - B. His Power Recognized (vs. 9) Matthew 8:2; 2 Timothy 1:12
 - C. His Authority Realized (vs. 8-9) Matthew 7:29; Mark 1:27
- III. THE COMMENDATION OF FAITH.** Matthew 8:10-12
 - A. The Measure of Faith (vs. 10) Matthew 9:18; 14:36
 - B. Salvation by Faith (vs. 11) [SoF:7] John 3:15; 11:25; 20:31
- IV. THE RESULT OF FAITH.** Matthew 8:13
 - A. Immediate Healing (vs. 13) Matthew 20:34; Mark 7:35; John 4:53
 - B. Jesus' Power Known (vs. 13) Matthew 9:6; John 17:2; Acts 10:38

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *AND AS THOU HAS BELIEVED, SO BE IT DONE UNTO THEE.*
Matthew 8:13

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 11:1-19

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Isaiah 40:1-8; Luke 7:18-35;
Mark 6:17-20

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: JESUS' TRIBUTE TO JOHN THE BAPTIST

INTRODUCTION:

John the Baptist had been witnessing for the Lord. He had proclaimed the coming of the Messiah and was preparing the way so that none should have cause to doubt when Jesus should appear. John testified of a new way of life, men were no longer to excuse themselves for their sins, but were commanded to repent.

Then John was imprisoned. His labors for Jesus were nearing an end. In the midst of these afflictions, doubts entered his mind and it was necessary that his faith should be re-established. The evidence of Jesus' Messiahship was overwhelming. So it is for us, too, that when the trials of life weigh us down in discouragement and misgivings, we can go to Jesus and He will strengthen our faith.

John was a mighty witness, the greatest to be born of women and yet Jesus said *"he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John."* (Matthew 11:11) This points out the greater place of the rebirth to be established through the blood of Jesus and in His resurrection. Jesus also pointed out the evidence of the unbelieving generation.

They found one fault with John the Baptist and another with Jesus. They also will falsely accuse us today. How often we hear sinners say, "I'm just as good as this Christian or that one." All excuses will fail on that great judgment day.

CENTRAL TRUTH: John witnessed of Christ, and obscured self, making a beautiful example for today's disciples to follow.

GOLDEN TEXT: *AMONG THEM THAT ARE BORN OF WOMEN THERE HATH NOT RISEN A GREATER THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST.*

Matthew 11:11

What a testimony! What a commendation! As we review the Word of God we can more fully understand the words of Jesus. John came with a new ministry. He followed many of the teachings of the various prophets who had preceded him, warning people to get right with God, to repent for their sins. He came in humble garb and a lowly diet. He was not obsessed with any desires for worldly gain. Greater than this, he brought the message of hope, telling people that the Messiah was coming. He told them that he was the voice crying in the wilderness and that *"the kingdom of heaven is at hand"*. He was preparing them for the greatest happening in world history.

In the face of all this, the majority of the people refused to heed the call. The cost of this new way of life was too great. So it remains to this day. Many hear the call of the gospel but it requires giving up self. Thus many reject the greatest blessing and joy of all time.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF November 24 – 30

M. Faithfulness, a Rare Virtue. Proverbs 20:6-13

T. Faithfulness Rewarded. Matthew 10:32-42

W. *Jesus' Tribute to John the Baptist. Matthew 11:1-19

T. Martyrdom of John the Baptist. Matthew 14:1-12

F. Faithfulness in Watching. Matthew 24:42-51

S. Miraculous Birth of John the Baptist. Luke 1:11-20

S. Ministry of John the Baptist. Luke 3:1-8