

## Matthew 30 – The Surprising Faith of a Centurion

### Matthew 8:5-13

***Fallen Condition Focus (FCF):*** We take for granted the amazing grace of the Gospel.

#### The Centurion overcomes prejudice

- **Matthew 8:5-6** When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, <sup>6</sup> "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly."
- Overcomes racial prejudice: Roman seeking help from a Jew
- Overcomes cultural prejudice: Powerful soldier seeking help from an unemployed carpenter
- Application – Is there a place in your life where faith means overcoming these same things?

#### The Centurion humbles himself

- Overcomes pride of independence: Admits he needs help
- Humbles himself further than that...
- **Matthew 8:7-8** And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." <sup>8</sup> But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof
- Centurion aware that Jews couldn't enter gentile home
- Doesn't want Jesus to defile himself on his behalf
- Story of Naaman
- Application: Where in our lives do we struggle with the pride of independence?

#### The Centurion glorifies Christ

- Did he understand the nature of the Trinity? Jesus Christ incarnate member of the Godhead
  - Probably not
- **Matthew 8:8-9** only say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I too am a man under authority, with 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."
  - Centurion speaks with the authority of Rome, soldiers obey his orders
  - Jesus speaks with the authority of God, creation obeys His orders
- Amazing recognition of the power of Christ
- We should be surprised that a gentile does this
- And surprised and saddened that Israel didn't
- Jesus' surprising words for Israel:
  - **Matthew 8:11** I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven
  - **Matthew 8:12** while [this goes on] the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.