

FPFWC Christian Development

April 25, 2020

Lesson #4 – Speak the Word Only

SCRIPTURE TEXT – Matthew 8:5-13

Key Verse - The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. Matthew 8:8 (KJV)

ICE BREAKERS

1. How should you respond when friends or relatives have needs?
2. Why are we so often filled with doubt?

LESSON COMMENTARY –

8:5-13. Capernaum was the center of Jesus' Galilean ministry (cf. [4:13](#)). The centurion in a Roman legion would be roughly somewhere between a high-ranking noncommissioned officer and a captain in the modern army. He oversaw 100 soldiers, with each legion having 60 groups of 100 when fully staffed. This **centurion** was courteous in not insisting that Jesus **come under**[his] **roof**, as Jewish people often refused to enter the homes of Gentiles to avoid becoming ritually impure. The centurion's **faith** was bolstered by his own military context. He was given authority and exercised it over his troops. Jesus had authority over all diseases and the evil spirits that sometimes inflict them. Jesus had not seen faith like this "even in Israel"—the *birthplace* of faith in God. Those who will **come from east and west** are probably Gentiles like the centurion and not scattered Jews. Those with faith will **recline... in the kingdom of heaven**, which is likened to a wedding feast ([Isa 25:6](#); [Mt 25:10](#); [Lk 14:15](#); [Rv 19:7-10](#)). The **sons of the kingdom** refer to the Jewish people who simply assumed their inclusion in the messianic kingdom (see *m. Sanh. 10:1*) and who even viewed themselves as God's agents in judging the nations (*2 Bar 72:6*; *T. Abr. 13:6*). Jesus makes it clear that without faith in Him they would be excluded from the kingdom. The **outer darkness** ([Mt 22:13](#); [25:30](#)) and **weeping and gnashing of teeth** ([13:42](#), [50](#); [22:13](#); [24:51](#); [25:30](#)) are metaphors for the experience of God's judgment reserved for unbelievers. Some scholars view those in the **outer darkness** as believers excluded from the celebrative aspects of the kingdom because they failed to live for God (the view of Zane C. Hodges, *Grace in Eclipse: A Study on Eternal Rewards* [Dallas: Redención Viva, 1985], 83-95). This view is impossible, however, in light of [13:42](#), [50](#), where tares, who are labeled "sons of the evil one" in [13:38](#), and bad fish, called "wicked," not righteous, in [13:48](#), experience this judgment.

Sources: Moody Bible Commentary