

## “GREAT FAITH”

Following our previous lesson about “*Little Faith*,” it is appropriate to turn our attention to its opposite: “*Great Faith*.” On two occasions, Jesus commended the exceptional faith of Gentiles who approached Him for healing.

### I. GREAT FAITH KNOWS UNWORTHINESS

#### A. **Luke 7:2-10**

This centurion refused to so bother the Lord as to insist on Him coming under his own roof (6-7).

#### B. **Psalms 8:3-5**

Considering the majestic power of the Creator, it is astounding that He concerns Himself at all with our affairs.

#### C. **Acts 10:28**

As the Jewish rulers of the time reckoned, it was unlawful for Jews to enter the homes of Gentiles. The centurion was being very considerate of the social and political ramifications were Jesus to actually come to his house.

#### D. **Matthew 5:41**

The Romans, especially soldiers (Luke 13:26), were authorized then to compel the Jews to carry loads with them for one mile. The centurion declined to exercise this prerogative in respect to who Jesus is.

### II. GREAT FAITH PERCEIVES JESUS’ POWER

#### A. **Luke 7:2-10**

This centurion knew Jesus capable of healing his servant and was convinced He could do it from a distance (3,7).

#### B. **John 4:46-54; Luke 17:12-14**

Christ had made others well without going near them. Whether the centurion was aware of this or not, he fully trusted the Lord to do what was needed.

C. **Colossians 1:15-17**

All things were created by Him, through Him, and for Him. His power excels all others.

III. **GREAT FAITH RESPECTS AUTHORITY**

A. **Luke 7:2-10**

This centurion was a man both possessing authority and answering to it (8), so He understood how things work. By this comparison to himself, He implied his own understanding about Jesus' authority.

B. **Luke 4:32, 36**

His doctrine and His miracles had given evidence of the authority possessed by Jesus of Nazareth.

C. **Matthew 28:18**

Upon His resurrection, Christ asserted that authority very plainly, explicitly claiming universal authority.

D. **Colossians 3:17**

It is because of His authority that all we do must be done in His name.

IV. **GREAT FAITH IS NOT OFFENDED**

A. **Matthew 15:21-28**

No one would be the least surprised if this woman was totally put off by Jesus not only excluding her in the first place, but by comparing her and her child to dogs. She refused to be offended, though.

B. **Matthew 13:53-57; 15:1-12; John 6:60-67**

Being a seemingly known figure in Nazareth was offensive to His fellow Nazarenes. His accusation of hypocrisy was offensive to the Pharisees. When He offended some, he invited others to depart with them.

C. **Matthew 11:6; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:6-8**

Not being offended by Him is pretty much the first step to being Jesus' disciple.

**V. GREAT FAITH IS PERSISTENT**

**A. *Matthew 15:21-28***

This lady wouldn't give up. She was crying for mercy, the disciples were annoyed by her, Jesus said His earthly mission was in a different field, she tried again, He compared her and her daughter to canines, and she accepted the analogy graciously, but still persisting!

**B. *Matthew 8:19-22***

Christ readily provided excuses for those would-be disciples who could be dissuaded. If they were not serious about Him, He let them go.

**C. *Luke 14:27***

Discipleship is for persevering people who are ready to suffer.