

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Thirteen

Healing the Centurion's Servant

Text: Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Introduction:

1. In the last few lessons, we have studied miracles that Jesus performed to challenge the Pharisees.
2. Along with those miracles, He had demonstrated a love for those the Pharisees hated – sinners, publicans, Samaritans and even Gentiles.
3. After healing the man with the withered hand in the synagogue on the Sabbath, Jesus returned to the Sea of Galilee and healed multitudes from all parts of Palestine (Mark 3:7-12).
4. Matthew tells us that this was done in fulfillment of prophecy that the Gentiles would trust in Jesus (Matthew 12:15-21).
5. Following these wonders and a night of prayer, Jesus selected His twelve apostles (Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16).
6. This event was followed by the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 – 7; Luke 6:17-49).
7. Finally, Jesus returned to Capernaum and again demonstrated His love for the Gentiles by healing the servant of a Roman Centurion.

I. The Miracle

- A. Much like the healing of the nobleman's son, this miracle was performed at a distance.
- B. Jesus spoke the word and healed this man without entering into the Centurion's house, seeing or touching the one who was sick.
- C. The miracle is even more powerful for the servant was exceedingly tortured by the palsy and was at the point of death.

II. The Manifestation

- A. A Centurion was a Roman military officer who oversaw 100 other soldiers.
- B. Thus, as a Roman, he was likely a Gentile (cf. Acts 10:1-2).
- C. In fact, Jesus uses the faith of this man to demonstrate why the Gentiles would enter into His kingdom while the Jews would be cast out of it.
- D. Thus, Jesus manifests His love for all men, Jew and Gentile.

III. The Message

- A. We should learn to imitate the compassion of the Centurion.
- B. We should learn to imitate the kindness of the Centurion.
- C. We should learn to imitate the humility of the Centurion.
- D. We should learn to imitate the faith of the Centurion.
- E. Jesus will come and heal from sin!