**Jesus Heals a Centurion’s Servant**

**A Bible Story From**

**Matthew 8:5-13 (and Luke 7:1-10)**

**Bible Story Number: 2010250**

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**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This event (or perhaps two similar events) is recorded in Matthew 8 and Luke 7. The account in Luke indicates that the centurion sent some Jewish elders (or citizens) to Jesus to ask him to come and heal his servant who was sick and about to die. They told Jesus that the centurion was a good man and was worthy because he loved the Jews and had even built them a synagogue. Jesus agreed to go with them but was met by another delegation sent by the centurion before he reached his house. The Luke account is not a direct encounter between Jesus and the centurion. Therefore, these may be two different events or the same event told from two different points of view.

**Story from the Bible**

**Matthew 8:5-13 (and Luke 7:1-10)**

This is what the Bible says.

Jesus returned to Capernaum. A Roman soldier (a centurion), with 100 men under his charge, came to see Jesus asking for his help. He told Jesus that his servant was at home paralyzed and suffering terribly. The servant was about to die.

Jesus offered to go back with him. The soldier responded that he was not worthy of having Jesus go to his house. Instead, he told Jesus to just give the order and his servant would be healed. He explained that he was a man under authority and he had soldiers under him. He told Jesus that he was a man that gave orders to his men and those orders were carried out. He believed that Jesus could give the order and his servant would be healed.

When Jesus heard this he was amazed. Jesus told his followers that he had not seen this kind of faith in all of Israel (among the Jews). He went on to say that there will be people that are from the east and the west at the feast (or banquet) in heaven along with the Jews (the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).

Jesus told the soldier to go and it would be done just as he believed it would. The soldier’s servant was healed at that very moment.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Why did the centurion go to Jesus?
* Did Jesus hesitate to go to the centurion’s house?
* How did the centurion express his confidence in Jesus’ ability to heal his sick servant?
* How did Jesus respond to the centurion’s confidence that Jesus only needed to speak and his servant would be healed?
* According to Jesus, what was so special about the centurion’s faith?
* What did Jesus say that indicates that there will be non-Jews in heaven along with Jews?
* How did Jesus heal the centurion’s servant?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.