

What on Earth Are We Here For? Week Two: Trusting Jesus Fully

Getting Started: Take a few minutes and discuss this question: **Think about a time that someone placed a lot of trust in you (maybe at work, or a favor for someone you know, or a responsibility you accepted). In what way were they counting on you? How did it feel to be trusted by others?**

Trust is an essential component in life. We place trust in other people all the time. However, not everyone comes through for us. Today's encounter from the Bible includes a man who was used to being trusted by others – and who gave his trust completely to Jesus.

Bible Study:

Read these verses from Matthew 8 –

⁵ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

⁸ The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith...”

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

At first take, this seems to be an encounter about a healing. But there's a deeper story taking place in the midst of these circumstances...a story of acceptance and trust.

1) At the center of this story is a Roman Centurion. Rome was an occupying force, governing a conquered nation. Imagine if our country was overthrown by the great military power, Luxembourg. Imagine that they exercised a certain level of martial law, and levied heavy taxes over us. How might you view the local Luxembourg leaders? Similarly, how do you think most Jews viewed this centurion?

- 2) Given that context, why is Jesus' offer to go to the centurion's house so remarkable? What does it teach us about him?

- 3) Read verses 8-9. How did this centurion view Jesus? What is his understanding of his own authority and Jesus' authority?

- 4) Jesus' response to the centurion's comment was astonishment. What does astonishment mean in that context? What does Jesus say in response to the centurion?

- 5) What is the end result of this encounter?

Application:

Where we place our trust usually comes to light in a crisis more than any other time. In crisis, I am brought to the place of asking myself, "What is needed most in this moment?" Often, the answer has to do with the presence and power of God.

- 1) In essence, the centurion from our Bible encounter says, "Jesus, I believe you can do anything. You don't need to be in the same room as my servant, your power transcends location. You can heal with a word. I trust you with my greatest need." What does it take to develop this kind of trust/faith in Jesus?

- 2) Dwight L. Moody, famous revival preacher from the 1800's, once said: "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God's help, I aim to be that man." What would it look like for someone to be fully TRUSTING in God? What might that person's life look like?

- 3) What are some of the barriers that keep us from trusting God more fully?

- 4) Think for a moment: what is one situation in your life which could be made better by placing more trust in God? Are you willing to share it? How would trusting God change how you approached this situation?

For Additional Study:

Through the week, take a look at Proverbs 3:5-6.

How is acknowledging/submitting to God the same thing as trusting him?

How does my own understanding get in the way of trust?