

SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016

THEME: FORSAKING ALL I TRUST HIM...THE FAITH STORY UNIT TWO – “RESTORATIVE FAITH” “ACTIVITY OF FAITH...IT HEALS”



Sunday School Lesson No. V – April 3, 2016 Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Luke 7:1-10

Required Reading: Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Motto Text: Luke 7:9 (NLT), “When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd that was following him, he said, “I tell you, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel!”

Reliable Resources: What the Bible Teaches by R. A. Torrey; New Pilgrim Edition Study Bible; Easton’s Illustrated Dictionary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Wilmington’s Bible Handbook; Standard Lesson Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Master Outlines from “The Open Bible” Thomas Nelson; The Outline Bible by H. L. Wilmington

INTRODUCTION

Quoting the Standard Lesson Commentary: “Today’s lesson tells of an encounter between Jesus and a man who was very much like many of us. The man was a Roman soldier, a person who doubtless had faced death on many occasions. But one day he found himself standing helplessly by the bedside of a beloved household member whose life was ebbing away. Circumstances of this kind can be the truest test of one’s heart and convictions.”

Hebrews 11:6 notes this familiar illustration concerning faith in action, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” And quoting the Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator: “Most of us have probably heard about the tightwire walker who had a wire stretched across Niagara Falls and was getting ready to make a dangerous trip across. In addressing the gathered crowd, he asked, ‘How many of you believe I can actually walk across this chasm on that wire?’ The majority of the people raised their hands. He then asked, ‘How many of you think I can walk across this chasm on that wire while pushing a wheelbarrow?’ Not all of them raised their hands this time, but many still did.

The tightwire walker had one more question: ‘How many of you so trust that I can do this that you are willing to get into the wheelbarrow and let me push you across this chasm?’ Only one or two hands were raised this time.

Faith does not wait for visible results. Faith is action prior to results; it is obedience to God’s directives without knowing what the exact outcome will be. It is not the same as participating in foolish activities without counting the cost. It is conscious action based on the trust we have in God and His faithfulness to us, His children.” (The name of the tightrope walker was the Frenchman, Charles Blondin.)

Anticipated Power Points:

- **The Setting.** Luke 7:1-3
- **The Seeking.** Luke 7:4-5
- **The Sincerity.** Luke 7:6-8
- **The Saviour.** Luke 7:9-10

LESSON OUTLINE

“ACTIVITY OF FAITH...IT HEALS”

I. The Setting. Luke 7:1-3

Luke pens that Jesus had just concluded His famous “Sermon on the Plain,” Luke 6:20-49. According to Wilmington, “Jesus rewards the faith of a Roman officer by healing his slave.” What an act of unbiased love as Jesus teaches us, He is no respecter of persons.

Jesus’ coming to Capernaum made it a place of many signs and miracles that He performed. You might say it became an adopted headquarters for Jesus (Matt. 4:13; Mark 2:1). It was also a place that housed Roman troops which occupied the land of Palestine. Most Jews hated the Roman occupational forces, but we learn today that among the Roman legions was a very special and unusual Centurion, whom we will learn much about. He was a man that exercised faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and had a testimony of good works toward the Jews. The Matthew 8:5 account says the Centurion visited Jesus personally, while Luke explains he used an emissary. The point is that Jesus received this man’s presence and faith!

II. The Seeking. Luke 7:4-5

The Jewish elders entreated Jesus for this Centurion, because he was a man of compassion, respect, generosity and benevolence towards the Jews. He had even had built a synagogue for the Jews to worship in. Truly, he had won the hearts of his Jewish neighbors. But why was he seeking Jesus? He heard of Jesus and apparently believed He could heal his servant and greatly desired the grace for a servant he loved!

III. The Sincerity. Luke 7:6-8

Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary (LACNTC) makes the following statement of the Centurion’s sincere faith: “Jesus responded to the request brought by the Jewish elders and went with them. Just before they arrived at the house, the officer sent another message by way of some friends. ‘Lord, don’t trouble yourself by coming to my home...Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed.’ The officer understood that since he was a Gentile, he was considered unclean by the Jews. He may also have felt himself unworthy to have Jesus enter his home. This Gentile understood more than most of the Jews of Jesus’ day; he saw Jesus’ superiority. He saw that Jesus’ authority was greater than his own and that Jesus did not have to personally visit his home. Jesus’ word would be enough.”

This kind of active sincere faith demonstrated the heart of the Centurion. Remember John 20:29, “...*blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*”

IV. The Saviour. Luke 7:9-10

Here we see our Lord Jesus being awesomely impressed! “*he marveled at him,*” to consider this a wonder! Awesome! WOW! Be Series New Testament states, “If this Roman, with very little spiritual instruction, had that kind of faith in God’s Word, how much greater our faith ought to be! We have an entire Bible to read and study, as well as over 2,000 years of church history to encourage us, and yet we are guilty of ‘*no faith*’ (Mk. 4:41) or ‘*little faith,*’ (Matt. 14:31). Our prayer ought to be, ‘*Lord, increase our faith!*’ (Luke 17:5).” LACNTC says, “Luke did not even record another word spoken by Jesus, but emphasized that the officer’s faith had been well placed. The officer’s friends returned to his house and found the slave completely healed.”

CLOSING

Vanessa Bell Armstrong sings: *“I have faith to see the invisible, Expect the incredible,
Receive the impossible. Faith that can conquer any, anything.
Faith – to reach the unreachable. Faith – to fight the unbeatable.
Faith – to remove the unmovable. Faith – that stands the invincible.
Faith – that can conquer anything.”*

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Looking Ahead:

April 10, 2016

Luke 7:36-50

Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!