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## The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Centurion's Servant

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# THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST

## MIRACLE TEN: Healing a Centurion's Servant (Mt. 8:5-13; Lk. 7:1-10)

### SURVEY

This Gentile military officer who loved Israel and had actually built a synagogue for the Jews implored Jesus to heal his dying servant. Jesus agreed to go and heal him. However, the officer replied:

*"No need, Lord, just say the word and it will be done."*

The Savior is amazed at this kind of faith. Upon returning to his home the centurion finds his servant healed!

### SIGNIFICANCE

- This is the first of two cases involving miracles in which Jesus was amazed at the great amount of faith He found in the one requesting the miracle. Both individuals were Gentiles. The other was the Syrophenician mother (Mt. 15:28).
- How sad to note that He marveled over the unbelief and lack of faith in His own countrymen.

*"But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house...And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching." (Mk. 6:4, 6)*

### SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Almost all centurions (Roman military commanders of 100 soldiers) in the Bible are presented in a favorable light. Examples:

1. The one mentioned here
2. The centurion in charge of Jesus' crucifixion

*"And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God." (Mk. 15:37, 39)*

*"Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man." (Lk. 23:47)*

3. The centurion whom Peter led to Christ

*"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway." (Acts 10:1-2)*

4. The centurion who was in charge of Paul's first part of his journey to Rome:

*"And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band... And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself." (Acts 27:1, 3)*

5. The centurion who later saved Paul from death following the storm:

*"And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land." (Acts 27:42-43)*

6. The centurion who allowed Paul to receive visitors during his house arrest in Rome:

*"And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him." (Acts 28:16)*

- This is in stark contrast to the Jewish rulers who misunderstood their own scriptures and mistreated both Jewish and Gentile believers. Note the following indictments:

1. By Jesus (Mt. 22:29; 23:33)
2. By Stephen (Acts 7:51-53)
3. By Paul (Rom. 9:30-32; 1 Thess. 2:14-16)
4. By John the Baptist (Mt. 3:7-12)
5. By John the Apostle (Rev. 2:8-9)