

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

December 14, 2015

What Can "I" Do?

MATTHEW 8:5-7 NKJV – (5) Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, (6) saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." (7) And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

In the scripture reading, the man shows faith not only by acknowledging his own unworthiness but also by recognizing that Jesus' power is so great that this request is small to him. Most of the centurion's contemporaries would have balked at such faith; even Jewish people considered long-distance miracles especially difficult and rare, the domain of only the most powerful holy men like Hanina ben Dosa. The centurion reasons, however, from what he knows-he can issue commands and receive obedience because he is *under authority* that is backed by the full authority of the Roman Empire, which he represents to his troops. In the same way, the authority of Israel's God backs Jesus, and a mere command from his lips banishes powers in subjection under him, including sickness. Do we have such faith to recognize the greatness of God's power? Those who are submitted to Jesus' will - act on it today, recognizing that the authority he provides to carry out his work is his and not our own.

I recall a situation where a lady requested prayer. She was between two men. One carried himself as a Christian and the other did the same, but she noticed that the second one's actions did not line up with a Christians' behavior. She was a woman that knew of God, but her relationship was not strong. She humbled herself, put away her pride and asked the first person she saw to pray for her situation.

Like Jesus, people expect Christians to assist them. My question to you is "What can you do?"

SCRIPTURE READING

JAMES 1:27

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'No one else has ever become poor by giving.'