

Luke 7:1-10 ESV

So Unworthy, But So Loved!

Sunday, May 29 at 8:00 & 10:45

Second Sunday after Pentecost / First Sunday after Trinity – 2016

Monday, May 30 – *Memorial Day Observed* – No Service

Mondays resume on June 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ:

- ▶ **The Bible says that in God** we live and move and have our being ([Acts 17:28](#)), *yet we tend to think we are self-sufficient – that we live, move, and exist apart from God!*
- ▶ **We know what God says in His Word** about saying, “No” to sin and “Yes” to His will, *yet, oftentimes, we say “Yes” to sin and “No” to His will!*

For those reasons and SO MANY MORE, let us know we are **unworthy** of ♣God’s daily care, ♣ God’s salvation, and ♣God’s friendship; **nevertheless**, *God still loves us!* Therefore, let us learn to ask Him for everything, but always according to His grace and never according to our worthiness!

1. **Our Needs Should Attract Us to Jesus:**

- a. The setting: **¹ After [Jesus] had finished all his sayings [words] in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum.** // We might ask, “What sayings”? The second-half of Luke 6 is a shortened version of the Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew chapters 5-7](#)). Jesus spoke many amazing things, but why? Consider this quote by Dr. Kretzmann, the people **“were not merely to listen inattentively and forget all the precepts**

within a few minutes, but **their hearing, their understanding, was to take hold of the great truths**, in order that they might become **the property of the mind, and be received into the heart**" (NT 1:300).

- b. The need: ² Now a centurion had a ~~servant~~ [slave] who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. ³ When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him **elders of the Jews**, asking him to come and heal his ~~servant~~ [slave]. ⁴ And when [the elders] came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "**He is worthy to have you do this for him**," ⁵ for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." ⁶ And Jesus went with them.
- i. A centurion was a Roman soldier who commanded 100 men, *thus an important man who had many serving under him.*
 - ii. This particular centurion must have learned about the Promised Messiah from the Jews; furthermore, *He came to believe that Jesus is that Promised Savior!*
 - iii. Therefore, **knowing his slave was near death and knowing that Jesus had the authority to heal him, he took action to make the request through the elders.**
 - iv. The elders tried to make the centurion appear to be worthy of Jesus' help. Yes, he was a good and godly man, yet no one is worthy – *we are all miserable sinners!*

2. Our Confidence is in Jesus' Authority:

- a. The centurion had a proper view of himself:
^{6b} **When he was not far from the house** [of the very sick slave], **the centurion sent friends,** **saying to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.”** ⁷ **Therefore** [*for that reason – because of my own unworthiness*] **I did not presume [consider myself worthy] to come to you.”** // Initially the centurion did want Jesus to come; however, *when he learned that Jesus was on His way, and even close, he was struck by Jesus’ greatness and his own sinfulness.* So he sent friends to speak to Jesus on his behalf, to explain his unworthiness, *thus his need for grace – for undeserved love.* So, what about us, have we looked in the mirror lately, do we realize we are unworthy? If so, that is good; *then we will stop trusting in ourselves and be confident in Jesus!*
- b. The centurion understood authority: Now the friends, *speaking on behalf of the centurion,* continue to speak to Jesus: **“But say the word, and let my servant be healed** [*not δοῦλος – slave, as noted twice earlier, but παῖς – servant*]. ⁸ **For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”** // Those friends conveyed the perspective of the centurion, *who reasoned from the lesser to the greatest;* since he – *a sinner* – was obeyed by the soldiers and servants under him, surely Jesus –

the very Son of God – would be obeyed by the illness which was killing his servant! So let us never underestimate Jesus, who was given all authority in heaven and on earth (Mt. 28:18)!

- c. Jesus wants us to know He is always able:
- ⁹ When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him [the centurion], and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” ¹⁰ And when those who had been sent [by the centurion] returned to the house, they found the servant [slave] well. //**
- i. What happened? Think about this series of events: Earlier the centurion had heard God’s Word, *through which he received the gift of faith*. Then, *when Jesus heard his request and saw his faith*, He gave the word and the healing was immediate!
 - ii. Does that mean that when we ask in faith, *God will do whatever we ask*? No, God **“answers in His own way and at His own time”** (Small Catechism Explanation, Q 200).

Conclusion: Let us pray: Father in heaven, we acknowledge our sin, *thus our unworthiness*, yet we rejoice in Your continued love for us – *especially through Jesus!* Please help us to **◆**be humble, **◆**ask in faith, and **◆**be content with all of Your answers! In Jesus’ name, we pray.