

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#20 – “Just Say the Word” – Luke 7:1-10

I. Introduction.

A. Pastors can be distracted people.

1. Reasons
2. I wish I could “Say the word” so that health concerns, marriages, and broken lives may be healed.
3. Jesus does have the power.

B. Today’s emphasis

1. Jesus just finished the Sermon on the Plain and returned to Capernaum – Luke 7:1
 - a. Significance of Capernaum.
 1. The city would later be rebuked for an inflated view of itself – Luke 10:15

C. Today’s text: Luke 7:1-10

II. Exposition

A. Luke 7:2

1. “Centurion”
 - a. Backbone of the Roman Army.
2. “Servant” or “Slave” – Slave is a better translation.
 - a. Verse 7 uses the term PAIS translated servant, but it actually means a child or son.
3. “Highly regarded” -- Note how the term is used elsewhere.
 - a. Luke 14:8; Philippians 2:29; I Peter 2:4-6
 - b. Extraordinary description of a slave.

B. Luke 7:3-4

1. “Heard about Jesus”
 - a. Wise sayings and extraordinary power.
2. “Save the life of his slave.” Who else can we turn to?
 - a. An experience in Pastor Don’s past.

C. Luke 7:5-6

1. The centurion was an honorable man for many reasons. Based upon this honor, the Jewish elders surmised justification for the healing (works).
2. It was an extraordinary event to have Jews plead a case for a Roman.
 - a. Anti-Semitism was alive and well in the first century.
3. In the view of men, the centurion appeared to be a holy man.
 - a. Yet, the centurion knew of his unworthiness.

D. Luke 7:7-8

1. Just say the word.
2. Extraordinary comment.

E. Luke 7:9-10

1. “He marveled.”
 - a. Only two places in the New Testament where Jesus experiences astonishment.
First: Over friends and family – Mark 6:2-3,6. Unbelief
Second: Today’s text, verses 7-9. Belief
2. Why was his faith so significant?
 - a. Mighty men do not normally acknowledge the need for help.
 - b. Revered men like this one do not typically acknowledge their unworthiness.
 - c. He just took Jesus at his word.
 - d. As a Gentile he had more faith than an Israelite.
3. How extraordinary was the healing? Incredibly.
 - a. J.C. Ryle

III. Points for Reflection

- A. Good works from a human vantage point can save no one!
- B. Unworthiness is the beginning of salvation by grace and not works.
- C. Christians should enjoy God’s grace by never forgetting their unworthiness.
- D. Faith is belief as expressed through trust.