

For the week of July 31, 2016
Pastor: Dan Westman

Marvelous Faith

Fourth week in the series "Stories of Welcome in the Gospel of Luke."

Luke 7:1-10

Many people today are skeptical of Christianity. Jesus himself encountered the same skepticism from his own people during his ministry. Yet in this passage, Jesus witnesses an incredible amount of faith from a most unlikely source - a gentile Centurion. Jesus is looking for marvelous faith today as well. Will he find it in you?

Discussion Questions:

1. The centurion was a lot like many people that we interact with on a regular basis — successful, influential, well respected, but clearly an “outsider” when it comes to church. Are there people in your life that remind you of the centurion? How might Jesus’ interactions with this man impact the way that you interact with others outside the church?
2. When the Jewish leaders approached Jesus, they argued that the centurion deserved Jesus’ favor because of the kindness that he had showed the Jewish community in Capernaum. Do you ever approach God with a deserving attitude? Do you ever see this attitude reflected in our church community at large?
3. The attitude of the centurion is quite different than that of the Jewish leaders. He feels unworthy to have Jesus enter his home. Is this the right response? In what ways ought we to emulate the attitude of the centurion?
4. In this story, Jesus shows that those who assume that they are “outsiders” in the kingdom of God might actually be “insiders,” and vice versa. What really determines whether one is an insider or an outsider? How can we learn to understand these categories as Jesus does?