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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## Humble Faith Luke 7:1-10

### Lesson Background and Introduction

The centurion had a horrible problem, here he was, a man of command, and a specter loomed that he could not control. His favored servant lay at death's door, yet he was helpless to do anything. It is agonizing to stand helpless while a loved one slips away. Although he commanded a hundred men, he was still a man himself. He still felt very real and deep emotions. Notice something interesting here: he did not go out to seek Christ in person. Instead, he sent a delegation of Jewish elders. When Jesus heard the request, He set off for the centurion's house. However, He was quickly met by some of this man's friends. They had been sent to tell Christ not to bother Himself to go there. This was a Roman official, someone with great power, saying that he was not worthy to have Christ under his roof! To the crowd, this was staggering. The man was telling Jesus not to sully Himself by coming into his house. However, the centurion recognized in Christ something that others did not. First, this man called Jesus "Lord" (Luke 7:6). He knew who Jesus was. It seems possible that he called Jesus this because he knew that Jesus was the Messiah. Second, he understood his sinful state before a righteous God. Unlike the Jews who considered themselves pious, this man acknowledged how undeserving he was to be in Christ's presence. However, he also understood Christ's great power. This is what made the difference. Unlike some who sought for a sign from Christ (John 2:18), this man's faith required only a spoken word. That faith is what caused Christ to speak so highly of this foreigner (Luke 7:9). We are told that Christ has healed us through His wounds (1 Pet. 2:24). We read about instances in Scripture in which He healed someone. But do we truly believe that He will do this? Do you have a need for healing? Take it to Jesus. The centurion believed, and his servant was restored with a word. Take it to Jesus, being confident that Jesus is the Great Physician, the One who is able to heal even the direst case if you ask in faith.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**A Humble Leader** - One time when Jesus traveled to Capernaum, He heard about a centurion servant's illness. This proved to be an unusual situation. A centurion was a Roman soldier with 100 men under his charge. Centurions were Gentiles and Romans, and they usually oppressed the Jewish people they had conquered.

**Humility and Compassion** - Ordinarily, when a servant became ill or injured, the owner just got rid of him or her, like property. But this centurion had noble qualities. His kindness and compassion were obvious. He had built a close relationship with the Jews, and he had even helped them build their local synagogue. As Jesus was heading to the centurion's house, a group of the soldier's friends told Jesus He didn't have to come. The centurion had said there was no need to come to his home. Maybe the centurion understood that Jews were not permitted to come inside an unclean Gentile's home. But more importantly, the centurion also understood authority. He knew Jesus had authority to heal his servant by just saying the word.

**Admiring Humility** - The Savior marveled at the faith of this Gentile soldier. He told the crowd following Him that He had not witnessed such faith in all of Israel. The servants returned and found the sick servant completely well.

**Humility Today** - This Gentile soldier displayed humble faith in God. This is a characteristic that made Jesus stop and take note. It's rare to find a person who has a humble faith in God and his fellow man, but one such person was George Muller. He trusted God to support over 2,000 orphans in Bristol, England, in the 19th century. His biographer observes, "Nothing is more marked in George Muller, to the very day of his death, than this, that he so looked to God and leaned on God that he felt himself to be nothing, and God everything" (A. T. Pierson, George Muller of Bristol). This is the kind of faith that needs to be seen much more often among all of Jesus' followers

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Childlike faith focuses on our heavenly Father, not on our fear

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

God, give me the faith of a little child,  
Who trusts so implicitly, Who simply  
and gladly believes Thy Word And  
never would question Thee. —  
Showerman

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*When I was a child, I spoke as a  
child, I understood as a child, I  
thought as a child; but when I became  
a man, I put away childish things  
(1 Cor 13:11 NKJV)*

*(from "Our Daily Bread", June 08, 1998)*

**Series: Responding to  
God's Grace**

**UNIT: Responses to God's  
Faithfulness**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Grateful Faith  
(Luke 7:37-48)**

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Plea of Faith (Luke 7:1-3)**

#### *A critical need (1-2)*

A critical need that seeks the pity of God (Mark 9:21-24)

A critical need that seeks God to be willing to help (Luke 5:12-13)

A critical need that seeks the One who is the only way into Heaven (Luke 13:23-25)

#### *Hearing about Jesus (3)*

Hearing about Jesus through preaching (Rom 10:14)

Hearing about Jesus through the Word of God (John 20:31)

Hearing about Jesus through witnesses (Acts 26:17-18)

Hearing about Jesus through the gospel (Rom 16:25)

#### *Requesting Jesus' healing (3)*

Requesting Jesus' willingness to heal (Matt 8:2-3)

Requesting Jesus' healing through touching (Matt 9:20-22)

Requesting Jesus' healing through His mercy (Matt 9:27-29)

### **Works of Faith (Luke 7:4-5)**

#### *Works of worthiness (4)*

Works of worthiness through doing good works (Col 1:10)

Works of worthiness through God's calling (Eph 4:1-2)

Works of worthiness through godly conduct (Phil 1:27)

#### *Works of good deeds (5)*

Works of good deeds through living a good life (1 Peter 2:12)

Works of good deeds done in humility and wisdom (James 3:13)

Works of good deeds in family life (1 Tim 5:10)

Works of good deeds through the encouragement of God (2 Thess 2:16-17)

### **Wisdom of Faith (Luke 7:6-8)**

#### *Wisdom of humility (6)*

Humility through grace (James 4:6)

Humility before God (James 4:10)

Humility by considering others interest before ours (Phil 2:2-4)

Humility that is not false (Col 2:17-19)

#### *Wisdom of acknowledging Jesus' authority (7-8)*

Authority because God put all things under Jesus' power (John 13:3)

Authority because Jesus has all authority (Matt 28:18)

Authority because God exalted Jesus above all powers (Eph 1:20-21)

Authority Jesus is Lord of all (Phil 2:9-11)

### **God's Response to Faith (Luke 7:9-10)**

#### *Recognition and commendation of faith (9)*

Faith beyond cultural boundaries (Matt 15:25-28)

Faith without wavering that God has the power (Rom 4:19-22)

Faith combined with love that is growing (2 Thess 1:3-4)

Faith that starts with giving of ourselves (2 Cor 8:1-5)

#### *Response of healing (10)*

Response of healing because Jesus is the only power that heals (Acts 4:7-10)

Response of healing because of humble prayer and repentance (2 Chron 7:14-15)

Response of healing through faith (Acts 3:16)