

The Miracles of Jesus
Pastor Charles B. Jackson, Sr., Presenter

Miracle: "A Happening with Which Human Reasoning Has Yet To Catch Up."

-Dr. William Augustus Jones

Miracle #8 – Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

- **Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10**
- **Matthew 8:5-7**

There appears to be a different account of who actually came to Jesus. Matthew 8:5 says the Roman centurion, himself, visited Jesus. Luke 7:3 says the Roman centurion sent Jewish elders to present his request to Jesus. This may appear to be a contradiction, but it is not. It is a matter of what the writer wanted to emphasize.

- Matthew's gospel was written primarily to the Jews.
- Mark's gospel was written to both the Jews and the Gentiles.
- Luke's gospel was written primarily to the Gentiles.

Matthew, writing to a Jewish audience, wanted to emphasize the man's faith. He was saying to the Jews that the Centurion, a Gentile, had faith in Jesus. If a Gentile believed that Jesus was the son of God and a Miracle Worker, then surely every Jew should believe the same.

Luke, writing primarily to the Gentiles, wanted to highlight the good relationship between the Jews (Church Elders) and the Gentiles (the Roman army captain). It matters not if you are a Jew or a Gentile (a non-Jew), Jesus saves. Salvation is in the name of Jesus.

- **Acts 4:12**
- **Acts 17:26**



When we pray for our nation, may we, the "pray-ers," change. If we, who pray, don't change, the nation won't change. Change begins with us.

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Luke emphasizes the human dimension of the ministry of Jesus. Jesus, the Jewish elders, the centurion and the servant are all a part of community. The Gentile centurion respects the Jews and their religion; the Jewish elders intercede for this Gentile with Jesus; Jesus willingly goes with them to the centurion's home.

- **Matthew 8:8-9**

The centurion felt unworthy to ask Jesus to heal his servant. Roman soldiers were hated by the Jews for their control and oppression. However, he understood authority.

- **Matthew 8:10-13**

Jesus marveled at the faith of the centurion – a Gentile. The NIV says that Jesus was amazed. Here was a Gentile, a non-Jew, who had faith enough to believe that Jesus was the Son of God and had the authority to heal his servant. How is that a Gentile would believe, but the Jews, God's chosen people would not? The Jews who had worshiped in the temple and were familiar with Isaiah 9:6 where it says "***Unto us a child shall be born, unto us a son is given. . .***"

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