

(Matthew 8:5-13)

God's true people – those who believe in Jesus – are those who recognise the authority of Jesus.

Introduction

After baptism, Jesus traveled and taught about God's Kingdom. He usually only taught God's people.

Foreign army officer arrives



A foreign army officer tells Jesus that his servant is ill. Jesus says he will come heal him.

Army officer's understanding of authority

The officer says no – he is not worthy for Jesus to come to his house.

Jesus can just say the word and the servant will be healed.

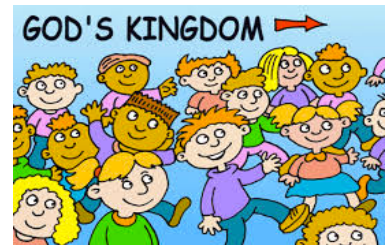
Authority figures say "Go" and "Come," and people obey them.



Jesus is amazed!

Jesus tells His followers

- I haven't seen this kind of trust among God's people!
- Because of their trust, many foreigners like this man will be in God's Kingdom.



- Many of God's people will not be in His Kingdom. Many will be in the darkness, weeping and suffering.



Healing

Jesus told the officer to go home.

Because you believed, it has happened.

The servant was healed at that moment.

Weekly Meditation and Reflection

Below are some questions and further reading if you would like some extra food for thought on this story. Some may find it helpful to journal the answers, and others may simply want to read and pray through them.

1. The army officer understands the authority that Jesus has, so much so that he knows that Jesus can do what He wants when He wants. Do you know this? Do you really believe this? Think about something difficult in your life right now. Do you believe that Jesus could just “say the word,” and the situation could be resolved? If not, ask Jesus for the belief to be able to give Him the situation. Ask Him for the belief in His sovereignty and goodness however He chooses to handle the situation – because He has the authority to decide what happens. Are you ok with that? If not, ask Him to make you willing!
2. What about the many who are on the outside of the Kingdom in the darkness, where there is much pain and weeping? We were all once there, and it was our trust in Jesus that allowed us to enter. We cannot make those outside trust in Jesus too, but we certainly don’t want them staying there! Ask God what He wants those of us in the kingdom to do about those outside.

Meditate on the following passages. What is God saying to you through His Word?

- Acts 10
- Matthew 22:1-14
- Matthew 28:16-20