

LUKE 7:1-17 *Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant*

INTRODUCTION

Are you a kind of big deal? We often take ourselves very seriously and are flippant toward God. When we recognize the authority and glory of Jesus we will worship Him and walk in humility. When God reveals His attributes in Exodus 34:6 He begins with mercy and grace. As beneficiaries of His mercy and grace, are we still moved to worship by His kindness?

DISCUSSION

What is authority?

Where do we see compassion displayed in our culture today?

EXPLANATION

- Why did the elders go to Jesus for the centurion?
- What is the difference between the centurion and the elders?
- What does the understanding of authority of the centurion say about the authority of Jesus?
- Why is Jesus so impressed with the faith of the centurion?
- What was the significance of the man being the only son of his mother who was a widow?
- How does this need compare to the concerns of the Pharisees in the previous texts?
- Contrast the way Jesus deals with the Pharisees with the way He deals with the widow.
- What was culturally significant about Jesus touching the bier?
- How do the responses of fear and worship go together?

APPLICATION

- How has your identity shaped your view of God?
- When have you thought too highly of yourself and made demands of God?
- When do you struggle with trusting God at His word- that He is in control and cares?
- Who do you know that needs to be healed (physically or spiritually) that you need to trust Jesus for?
- Spend time in prayer for faith like the centurion with regards to the authority of Jesus.
- Does God's glory inspire fear in you? Why or why not?
- Where have we used spiritual excuses to overlook physical needs around us?
- How can we show compassion to each other and our neighbors?