

A Believer

“Unknown by Name”

“And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.”

Matt 8:13



Jesus was continually trying to teach – teach a people that didn’t want to learn. But they wanted the results of his teaching. They wanted to see the miracles and have great faith, but they were not willing to sacrifice, to humble themselves, to learn from the sermons that Christ had given. One Centurion may have been at the Sermon on the Mount which was given to many before the miracle in today’s scripture. We don’t know, but we do know that he believed that Christ was able to heal his servant. This man was a Centurion, a Gentile, an officer in the Roman army. He had many men under him according to what we are told, yet he was willing to humble himself and go to a Jew to get his servant healed.

First we know of his faith because he thought Christ could heal his servant.

But we also see a concern for others. This was just a servant, a slave as Luke calls him when recounting the same miracle. Surely he could have been replaced. Luke tells us that the centurion was very concerned for a servant and that was very untypical. His knowledge of God and love for God is shown by his love for his fellow man. He had compassion. He felt he was not worthy that Christ should come to his home. He knew that he had done wrong in the past. He had soldiers under him that he could command to do earthly things, but he had now encountered a man that could do much more than he could ever dream.

Faith
is seeing light
with your heart
when all your eyes
see is darkness

Christ was impressed with his faith. Although he had traveled around the countryside and spoken to many people, he said of this centurion “*Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*” Matt 8:10 We once had a minister at our church that referred to our faith being like the mercury in a thermometer. Sometimes it is high; sometimes it is very low. And the only way to help that is through prayer and worship. There is a reason why Christ called the people together rather than just a chance meeting on the golf course! They needed the assurance from each other.

“I asked God ‘Why are you taking me through troubled water?’ He replied, ‘Because your enemies can’t swim.’”

They needed to worship together, to humble themselves to The Word.

Many times Christ talks about faith and believing. He tells us that if we just have the faith of a mustard seed we can do great things. Really. Why does the mustard seed have so much faith? Maybe because it doesn’t question. The mustard seed is planted, and as long as it is watered and fed, it grows. We need to be watered and fed. We can only do that through prayer and Bible study. Those are the things that make us grow.

In psychology class the teachers have come up with little “names” for groups of people. One that we were taught was “terrible twos and threes”. I have found that not to be true over the years. I prefer to call them “Trusting twos and threes.” The young child believes his parents and has faith in him. That is how he is going to learn. I think it is wrong when we say in front of a child that he is terrible. He will try to be what the authority wants him to be. Children are tender, just as new Christians are tender and Christ recognized this in

“Sometimes, God closes all the doors and locks all the windows. During those times it’s nice to know that maybe there is a storm outside and He wants to save you.”

He saw a man of great power, but even greater faith. We need to have the faith of a child, a trusting faith.

One man has become an American legend for his faith in apple seeds. Sure, we all know Johnny Appleseed, but did you know that he was a missionary for The New Church. He didn’t just throw apple seeds on the ground. He actually planted orchards and went back to check on them, especially in the Ohio and Pennsylvania area. Reading about him, we find that he was a compassionate man. He had a faith which we could copy. He nourished his seeds. There is a small table grace that can be sung that says many things. Probably most of them go unnoticed, but think this through!

*“Oh, the Lord’s been good to me.
And so I thank the Lord,
for giving me the things I need –
the sun, and the rain,
and the apple seed. The
Lord’s been good to me.
Amen.”*



Oh, if we could only have the faith of the seed, or even the planter, we can expect miracles and they will happen. We have that promise.

In 1953 a song was introduced called “I Believe”. The words tell a wonderful message of things that just can’t happen. They are reasons why I believe. It was written by Ervin Drake, Irvin Graham, Jimmy Shirl and Al Stillman when the United States was troubled by the uprising of the Korean War. It was introduced by Jane Froman on her television show, but has been recorded by many artists. The artist who holds the record for its recording was Frankie Laine.

***“I believe for every drop of rain
that falls, a flower grows
I believe that somewhere in
the darkest night a candle
glows
I believe for everyone who
goes astray
Someone will come to show
the way
I believe, I believe
I believe above the storm the
smallest prayer will still be
heard
I believe that someone in the
great somewhere hears
every word.
Every time I hear a newborn
baby cry
Or touch a leaf or see the sky
Then I know why I believe.”***

Prayer: Lord, I have been very blessed by You. I have shelter and food, fresh air, and the beauty of Your love surrounding me. I have each day, my faith, my family, and my friends. Help me to share this faith and live my life as you would have me live today, and every day. Amen

1. Why do we need to be humble? How can we display a strong faith to others?
2. Why is the faith of a child important? Remember Christ called them to come unto him because they are the “Children of God.”
3. Are we brave enough to be like the centurion? Or, do we want to be in control?
4. Do you believe we are unknown to other men by name, but God knows each of us very personally?

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