

Series: Encounters with Jesus

Message: A Soldier and a Servant

Scripture: Luke 7:1-10

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Luke 7:1-10

¹ When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ² There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. ³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, ⁵ because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." ⁶ So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." ¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

Matthew 8:10-12

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

We see a desperate/humble man, full of faith.

Quote from Albert Hsu, The Suburban Christian.

A mix of despair and hope is as good as any description of the suburban ethos. We are here in suburbia because we have some notion that it's a good place to be, but we are beginning to question exactly how good it is for us. We find ourselves experiencing a kind of suburban ambivalence.

It seems that much of what we long for in life, whether community and family, security and shelter, love and happiness, or meaning and purpose, is embodied somewhere in the suburban landscape. Looking for friends? There are people here by the millions. Searching for a place to call home? Subdivisions are as far as the eye can see. Need work to do? Plenty of jobs in suburbia. Want material stuff? Anything you can imagine is at a mall or big-box store near you. It's all here.

Yet many of us still haven't found what we're looking for. Instead of an idyllic paradise or restful haven, suburban living is often hectic and frazzled. Instead of a place of community, suburbia is often anonymous and isolated. We find ourselves frustrated with our commutes, lacking time with friends and family, trapped by debt and consumerism. The suburban world, far from an Edenic garden or American dream, often seems to be more of a fallen world. We feel spiritually impoverished.

1. Run (denial)
2. Riot (anger or depression)
3. Recognize and Receive (admit)

We see a great Savior, full of grace.

Matthew 8:10-12

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Luke 7: 21-22

²¹ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor."

Quote from H.A. Ironside, Commentary on Luke

In this wonderfully precious seventh chapter of Luke, we have four very striking illustrations of the grace of God in Christ overleaping all boundaries and flowing out to meet the needs of troubled hearts.

It is abounding grace throughout-----grace that delights to give, and asks nothing in return, but which produces gratitude and loving service on the part of the recipient.

His heart of compassion went out to men in their sorrows and distresses, and it was His joy to speak the word of healing and to deliver the troubled soul.

I Peter 2:24

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1. Christ alone
2. Grace alone
3. Faith alone
4. God's Word alone
5. The Glory of God alone

Quote from E.M. Bounds, "Prayer and Faith".

"When faith ceases to pray, it ceases to live." "The faith which creates powerful praying is the faith which centers on a powerful person. Faith in Christ's ability to *do* and to do *greatly* is the faith which prays greatly."