

Jesus and the Humble Centurion
(A CedarS Scriptural Skit-- @)

Setting: Capernaum

Bible: Luke 7:1-3, 6-10

Characters:

- Narrator
- Narrator's Assistant
- Jewish Elder
- Jesus
- Centurion

Costumes: In Antioch

Narrator: Jesus came to Capernaum, where a certain centurion's servant—

Narrator's Assistant: What's a centurion?

Narrator: **(annoyed at the interruption)** A Roman soldier who was in charge of a century.
Now—

Narrator's Assistant: How many is in a century?

Narrator: **(sighs at being interrupted again)** He was in charge of 100 soldiers. Anything else?

Narrator's Assistant: Nope.

Narrator: You sure?

Narrator's Assistant: **(nods a lot)** I'm good.

Narrator: Wonderful. As I was saying, a certain centurion's servant, who was a very good friend of his, was sick, and was about to die. When the centurion heard that Jesus was in Capernaum, he asked the elders of the Jews to beg Jesus to come and heal his servant and friend. They agreed and immediately went to Jesus and said—

Narrator's Assistant: Wait a second, go back. Why didn't the centurion just go to Jesus in the first place? His friend was dying, why would he waste the time to go through the elders of the Jews?

Narrator: Because the centurion was a Roman, and Jesus was a Jew. Romans were in charge of everything, they were the rulers of the cities that the Jews lived in, and so Romans and Jews never really spent time together. Romans also were polytheistic, **(narrator holds up a hand**

when the assistant starts to ask a question) which means they believed in many gods. But this Roman was different from the others.

Narrator's Assistant: Why was he different?

Narrator: I'm getting to that, would you let me finish?

Narrator's Assistant: Sure, sure.

Narrator: The elders of the Jews went to Jesus and told him:

Jewish Elder: This centurion is a very good man, and even though he doesn't believe in the one God, he built us a synagogue so that we could worship.

Narrator: So Jesus agreed and went to heal the centurion's servant. When he was almost to the house, the centurion saw him coming and told his friends to tell Jesus:

Centurion: Lord, don't trouble yourself by coming all the way over here, because I am not even worthy for you to come into my house. But if you say the word, I know that my servant will be healed. Because I also know what it means to be under someone's authority, and to be the one in charge. When I tell a soldier to go, he goes, and to another come, he comes here, and if I tell my servant to do something, he does it.

Narrator: And Jesus was amazed by the centurion and told his friends:

Jesus: This man has such great faith, even more so than those in Israel.

Narrator: And when the friends went back to the centurion's house, they found that the servant had been healed.

Narrator's Assistant: **(looks very confused)** I don't get it. What was the centurion talking about when he said all of that about being under someone's authority, and all that coming and going and doing?

Narrator: The centurion meant that he knew that God was the one who would really heal the servant, but that Jesus was the one who would carry it out. Like he said, the Centurion has someone telling *him* what to do, but that he's in charge of telling his soldiers and servants where to go, and what to do based on that. Get it?

Narrator's Assistant: **(slow nod)** Yeah. God's the one in charge, and we just gotta have faith.

Narrator: Exactly.

END SCENE

Possible follow-up questions on and applications of this Bible Lesson story:

What qualities does the Centurion express?

What does it mean to be humble?

What is responsibility?

What are the Centurion's responsibilities?

What are your responsibilities?

What does it mean to be responsible for something?

How do you fulfill your responsibilities?

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