

Introduction

1. This incident followed the Sermon on the Mount
2. It is a chapter full of human problems
3. Here we have an example to inspire us
See v.10: "I have not found so great faith"

1. UNDERSTANDING THIS EVENT

- 1) The centurion's problem: v.5-6
- 2) The Lord's readiness to help: v.7
- 3) The Centurion's response: v.8-9
- 4) The Lord's amazement: v.10
- 5) A lesson about the days ahead: v.11-12
- 6) The key to the situation: v.13
APPLICATION: It is amazing where you find faith!
(A soldier – a Roman – of a lordly nation)

2. THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF FAITH (IN PRAYER)

- 1) What is the greatest factor in prayer?
 - (i) NOT eloquence;
 - (ii) NOT memory;
 - (iii) BUT faith
- 2) I think this is what we all need most to improve our prayers – mine too! It is to have more faith!
- 3) Let me prove the point:
 - (i) The fig-tree (Matthew 21): see v.21-22

- (ii) Peter on the sea (Matthew 14): see v.31
- (iii) The lunatic son (Matthew 17): see v.20
- (iv) James 1:5-8: see v.6
- (v) Hebrews 11:6: "without faith..."
- (vi) Romans 1:17: "the just shall live by faith"
APPLICATION: Do we pray with faith?

3. THIS PRINCIPLE IS ILLUSTRATED ALL THROUGH THE BIBLE

- 1) I refer to the importance of faith
- 2) Look at the cases:
 - (i) Abel's sacrifice
 - (ii) Enoch's translation
 - (iii) Abraham's prayer for Sodom
 - (iv) Jacob wrestling with the angel
 - (v) Joshua – the sun stood still
 - (vi) Samson: the Temple fell
 - (vii) David v. Goliath
- 3) Many others, also, e.g. Daniel
- 4) Let us seek to excel in faith – now what have we prayed for – let us look for answers to these prayers

CONCLUSION

Faith says to God: "I will not let thee go,
except thou bless me."
Is that how we pray?

PSALM**62: 1 – 5****64: 1 – 4****66: 16 – 20**