

YPG III

12 May 2018

Theme: Discipleship

Title: "An Example of Great Faith (II)"

Text: Matthew 15: 21 – 26 , cf. Luke 7: 1 – 9

DEFINING THE FEATURES OF FAITH

1. Faith reaches out to the needs of others
 - a. He was a centurion, yet he cared deeply for his servant
 - i. He called him "my servant" (pais and not doulos) (Matthew 8: 6, 8, 9)
 - ii. He would plead with the Lord Jesus just for his servant (Matthew 8: 5)
 - b. He was a Gentile, yet he showed love for the nation of Israel
 - i. He built the Jews a synagogue (Luke 7: 5)
 - ii. Even the elders of the Jews would plead on his behalf! (Luke 7: 3)

2. Faith expresses itself in deep humility

"I am not worthy" (Matthew 8: 5)

- a. He had deep respect for the laws of the Jews
 - i. It was unlawful for Jews to go into the homes of Gentiles (cf. Acts 10: 28)
 - ii. The centurion understood and respected that
- b. He felt deeply unworthy
 - i. He did not even feel worthy to come to Jesus! (cf. Luke 7: 7)
 - ii. He felt this way in spite of all he had done for the Jews!

AN OUTSTANDING FEATURE OF GREAT FAITH

1. The centurion's regard for the person of the Lord Jesus
 - a. He addressed Him as "Lord" (Matthew 8: 8)
 - b. He greatly regarded His word... "only speak a Word" (Matthew 8: 8)
 - c. He saw Him as a "man of authority" (Matthew 8: 9)

2. Commendation from the Lord Jesus for his faith
 - a. Jesus spoke to those who followed
 - i. Disciples
 - ii. Multitudes
 - b. "I have not found such (great) faith" (Matthew 8: 10)

THE CHALLENGE TO CULTIVATE FAITH

1. Begin with the cultivation of basic faith

Exercise faith with reference to your personal challenges!

- a. Doing well in the army
 - b. University application
 - c. Grades / coping with your studies
 - d. Health issues
 - e. Relationship issues
 - f. Family issues
2. Seek to cultivate great faith

Go beyond your personal challenges...

- a. Cultivate a faith that cares for others
- b. Cultivate a faith that is deeply humble
- c. Most of all...cultivate a deep regard for the Lord Jesus!