

Questions for Gospel Harmony #34

Matthew 8.1, 5-13; Luke 7.1-10

Special Question: There is an apparent discrepancy between Matthew and Luke. Matthew describes the Centurion as present and engaged in a conversation with Jesus; Luke states that he was not present but communicated only through messengers. How are these seeming differences reconciled?

1. What was a Centurion? Was this man Jewish? What had he done for the Jewish people in Capernaum and why would he have done this? What made him think that Jesus could heal his servant? (Matthew 8.1, 5-7; Luke 7.1-5)
2. Why would the Centurion have felt uncomfortable having Jesus in His home? (Matthew 8.8; Luke 7.6-7)
3. Explain the statement: “For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” Why did these things convince the Centurion that Jesus could heal his servant without being physically present? Why did Jesus call this statement an example of “great faith” – even more than He had found in Israel? (Matthew 8.9-10; Luke 7.8-9)
4. Explain the statement: “And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Why does Jesus say this in this place? (Matthew 8.11-13; Luke 7.10)

Matthew 8.1, 5-13; Luke 7.1-10

When He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people He had come down from the mountain, [and] great multitudes followed Him. He entered Capernaum. Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant: saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour. And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.