

THE FAITH HE'S LOOKING FOR



While we're busy checking Brother Smith's doctrines,
and Sister Brown's morals,
and Brother Bill's politics,
Jesus sighs and shakes his head.

What kind of faith is this?

The faith he's looking for.

As he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress."

And he said to him, "I will come and heal him."

But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.

For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."

This man is an outsider. He's a Gentile, an officer in an occupying army. But Jesus rejoices over two rare things he sees in this man:

He loves his servant.

He has faith in Jesus.

Jesus does not check the man's doctrinal beliefs, or his morals or his politics. He looks into this man's heart and sees what he rarely finds.

Faith in him that flows from a tender heart



"I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth."

And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

Matthew 8

What ever gave us the idea that Jesus is concerned about our doctrines or our politics, or how many "spiritual gifts" we have?

Jesus is looking for the faith he found in that centurion.

That kind of faith puts us in the kingdom of God.

Arrogant faith won't enter.

Proud faith won't get in.

Loveless faith is barred.

Mean-spirited faith is turned aside.

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed."

"I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth."

Lord Jesus, we repent before you.

Tenderize our hearts.

Help us find the faith of that centurion.

