



# Daily Reflections

**July 1, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 8: 5-17**

Gospel MT 8:5-17

When Jesus entered Capernaum,  
a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying,  
"Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully."  
He said to him, "I will come and cure him."

The centurion said in reply,  
"Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof;  
only say the word and my servant will be healed.

For I too am a man subject to authority,  
with soldiers subject to me.

And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes;  
and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes;  
and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him,  
"Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.

I say to you, many will come from the east and the west,  
and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob  
at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven,  
but the children of the Kingdom  
will be driven out into the outer darkness,  
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth."

And Jesus said to the centurion,

"You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you."

And at that very hour his servant was healed.  
Jesus entered the house of Peter,  
and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.  
He touched her hand, the fever left her,  
and she rose and waited on him.  
When it was evening, they brought him many  
who were possessed by demons,  
and he drove out the spirits by a word and cured all the sick,  
to fulfill what had been said by Isaiah the prophet:  
He took away our infirmities  
and bore our diseases.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

That a Gentile Roman Centurion called Jesus "Lord" is amazing in and of itself. That he asked for healing for his servant, who was deemed by his culture as less than human and property, is shocking. The officer's deep faith had inspired him to see human life as a gift and worthy of salvation. To be a believer means to be "Pro-Life."

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## **Food for your Journey**

Integrity as we know it today stands for soundness of moral principle and character -- uprightness -- honesty. Yet there is more .... Integrity is also an ideal .... A goal to strive for, and for a man or woman to "walk in their integrity" is to require constant discipline and usage. The word integrity itself is a martial word that comes to us from an ancient Roman army tradition.

During the time of the 12 Caesars, the Roman army would conduct morning inspections. As the inspecting Centurion would come in front of each Legionnaire, the soldier would strike with his right fist the armor breastplate that covered his heart. The armor had to be strongest there in order to protect the heart from the sword thrusts and from arrow strikes. As the soldier struck his armor, he would shout "integritas" (in-teg-ri-tas), which in Latin means material wholeness, completeness and entirety. The inspecting centurion would listen closely for this affirmation and also for the ring that

well kept armor would give off. Satisfied that the armor was sound and that the soldier beneath it was protected, he would then move on to the next man.

At about the same time, the Praetorians or Imperial Bodyguard were ascending into power and influence. Drawn from the best "politically correct" soldiers of the legions, they received the finest equipment and armor. They no longer had to shout "integritas" (in-teg-ri-tas) to signify that their armor was sound. Instead, as they struck their breastplate, they would shout "Hail Caesar," to signify that their heart belonged to the Imperial personage -- not to their unit -- not to an institution -- not to a code of ideals. They armored themselves to serve the cause of a single man.

-General Krulak, recently retired Commandant  
of the U.S. Marine Corps, on "Integrity,"  
at the annual Joint Services Conference  
on Professional Ethics (JSCOPE),  
January 27-28, 2000.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, I love You and acknowledge You as my Lord and Savior. Help me to be faithful to Your will at all times. Amen.