



Daily Reflections

September 18, 2017

Scripture

Luke 7: 1-10

When Jesus had finished all his words to the people,
he entered Capernaum.

A centurion there had a slave who was ill and about to die,
and he was valuable to him.

When he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to him,
asking him to come and save the life of his slave.

They approached Jesus and strongly urged him to come, saying,
"He deserves to have you do this for him,
for he loves our nation and he built the synagogue for us."

And Jesus went with them,
but when he was only a short distance from the house,
the centurion sent friends to tell him,

"Lord, do not trouble yourself,
for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof.
Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you;
but say the word and let my servant be healed.

For I too am a person 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 at him
and, turning, said to the crowd following him,

"I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."

When the messengers returned to the house,
they found the slave in good health.

Our Scripture Reflection

"Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof...": What an incredible statement of humility by someone who didn't have to be humble! After all, he was an officer in the mighty Roman army. Jesus is astounded by the Centurion's faith and responds to his request immediately.

Food for your Journey

A seventeenth-century rabbi, Leona Medina, explained [prayer] this way: If you watch a man out on a boat grab a rope and pull his boat to shore you might think, if you were confused about weight and motion, that he was really pulling the shore to his boat. People have much the same confusion about spiritual weight and motion: In prayer, some believe that you are pulling God closer to you. But in fact the heartfelt prayer pulls you closer to God.

I have prayed in fear and in joy, in crisis and in calm. Each time I understood that what I was asking for was not the object of my prayer. My prayer that I would be healed was a prayer, stripped of all its topmost layers, to be assured that whatever happened would be all right. Every prayer in this way is a prayer for peace; it is peace in the world and in one's soul, the certainty that the pain is not empty, the world not a void, the soul is not alone.

--Rabbi David J. Wolpe, *Why Faith Matters* (HarperOne, 2008), 142.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please give me the Grace of humility so that I may acknowledge You as my Lord and God and trust You in all things. Amen.