

Whole School Worship



The country that Jesus lived in was not free. It was ruled by the Roman Empire. Rome had soldiers stationed there, to make sure people did as they were told. Quite often, these soldiers were not very nice.

They pushed people around. They forced them to carry heavy loads and sometimes they even beat them. A centurion was a Roman soldier in charge of 100 soldiers. One day Jesus was visiting a place called Capernaum, when several religious leaders came to talk to him about a centurion. You might have thought the leaders were there to complain – but no these leaders wanted Jesus to help the centurion.

“He’s not like the other Romans,” they explained, “He **respects** our people and our beliefs. He even built a place for us to worship God. And now one of his servants is about to die. Won’t you heal him Jesus, please?”

Jesus did what he had been asked and went to the centurion’s house and on the way he was met by some of the centurion’s friends who gave him a message.

The centurion’s message was, “Lord, I do not deserve to have someone as **respected** as you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to the gathered crowd, “I know what you think about the Roman soldiers, but this centurion is different. He trusts me. He really does. I haven’t found faith like this, even among our own people.

Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.