

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
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Luke 7:1-10
June 7, 2015

Seek the wisdom of great faith.

- ❖ What stands out about this Centurion?
 - ◆ His faith - of course
 - ◆ His humility - he was convicted of his unworthiness
 - ◆ His wisdom! He knew reality and acted wisely.
 - Fools: don't know reality or do, but act like it's not reality
- ❖ Graduates - you've gained knowledge for what? For wisdom

Seek the wisdom of great faith.

Great faith is faith. *Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.* Romans 10:17

- ◆ Faith is created by God's Word
- ◆ Faith is enlightened by God's Word, the Truth revealed
- ◆ Faith is convicted by and relies on God's reliable Word of Truth
- ❖ The Centurion knew: ***I myself am a man under authority...***
 - ◆ Truth: the Creator, the One True Living God is the highest authority
 - ◆ I, his creature, am subordinate to God's authority
 - *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.* Proverbs 9:10 fear = respect/revere
 - *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.* Proverbs 1:7
 - Contempt for God and his authority is the beginning of foolishness.
 - ◆ The wise are humbled by their own resentment of God's authority
 - ◆ Sin: contempt for God's authority - acting like we're the authority
- ❖ The source of the Centurion's humility - wisdom
 - ◆ Humbled to stand before the Living God
 - ◆ Humbled by his unworthiness on account of sin
 - ◆ Humbled to know God cares - he shows mercy to rescue us fools
 - ◆ Humbled by the honor to know & serve the Living God

- ❖ Wisdom sees reality and is convicted by the truth:
 - ◆ Who God is. That he alone is God.
 - ◆ Who I am: a sinner God rescued and made to be one of his saints
 - Honored to be called a child of God - taken back under his authority
 - Honored to serve the Holy Triune God
- ❖ Great faith is never focused on self! It doesn't rely on self.
 - ◆ Faith's focus is on God whom we revere, love, and trust
 - The Centurion's conviction: that Jesus could and would help
 - ◆ It's remade to think like him, it focuses on others and their needs.
 - The Centurion's focus on his servant and his community of believers

Graduates, what will you do with the knowledge you've acquired? What about future education? Any so called *wisdom* that claims to know more than God - is foolishness. It doesn't see the whole picture. Will you hold to the wisdom the Centurion found in God's word or trade it for the world's *wisdom* and be fooled?

This question is not just for our graduates. Each of us is called to remain in the word, sharing the Centurion's conviction. Each one needs to know who God is and who you are in Christ. So in repentance we...

Seek the wisdom of great faith.