

Whether Dying or Dead

Luke 7:1-17

by Don Falkos

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There was a Roman centurion in Capernaum whose servant was very ill. The centurion sent some Jewish leaders to ask Jesus, "Please, come to my home and heal my servant." The Jewish leaders encouraged Jesus to grant this request. "He's a good man. He loves the Jewish people. He's the one who built our synagogue."

Jesus went with them. They were almost there when the centurion sent some friends to say, "Sir, don't trouble yourself any further. I'm not important enough to have you come into my home. And I'm certainly not worthy to come to you in person. Just say the word and I know my servant will be healed. I'm accustomed to working under orders, and I issue orders to my men. I say to one soldier, 'Go,' and he goes. To another I say, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Jesus turned to the crowd following him and said, "In all my travels throughout Israel I have never encountered anyone with such great faith."

The servant was healed.

Jesus then went to a town called Nain. As he and his disciples were approaching the gate of the town, a funeral procession was coming out. The dead man was the only son of a widow. When Jesus saw the woman, his heart went out to her, and he said, "Don't cry."

Jesus stepped forward and touched the funeral bier on which the dead man was laid out and said, "Young man, get up." The dead man sat up and started talking. Jesus gave the man back to his mother.

Everyone there praised God, and news of what Jesus had done spread all throughout the surrounding countryside.