

THREE VIEWS OF ONE CHARACTER

1. Text: Luke 7:1-10
2. Here is a miracle – and before us is a centurion and the text gives us three views of the man.
3. These 3 are important: how others see us, how we see ourselves, how the Lord sees us.

I. How His Neighbors Viewed Him

1. That's important! Knew Him well, He lived among them, saw real person daily, on guard & off.
2. Actually alien – Gentile among Jews. Easily could be despised. Had much prejudice to overcome. Roman soldier as symbol.
3. But they were willing to exert effort, influence for Him. Put cause in their hands.
4. Verse 4. They “begged earnestly.” You don't do that unless you care deeply.
5. They present the case: He's worthy, fit, deserving. Think opposite
6. He loves (agape) our nation. Heart is with us. Think opposite
7. He built us the synagogue. Love that labor, gives, generously. Key to a Jewish community. Lord had already been in this synagogue (Luke 4:31-33). You can see today!
8. Apply:

II. How He Saw Himself

1. That's important, but hard to do. But His view is beautiful.
2. Felt He could use influence of others.
3. Man with desperate need: Dear servant, Doulous, ready to die. Verse 7- my boy.
4. “He's worthy-I'm not worthy.” He saw self differently than others, truly hard to do. Faced his true self. More you know, more you know you don't know.
5. Deep humility: I'm not worthy for you to come into my home OR to come to you!
6. “Lord, do not trouble yourself.” (Verse 6)
7. Could he be thinking of Jesus as a Jew defiling himself by coming into his home and he wouldn't want that? (Acts 10:28)
8. Man of understanding. He applied his own experience as a soldier to what Jesus could do. Command authority and obedience.
9. Faith is the crucial point! You just say the word. Argument from lesser to greater. Earthly → Spiritual; Human → Divine Power.
10. Progressive faith. First Lord was asked to come, then when almost there, said He didn't need to come. (Unworthy and no need)

III. How The Lord Saw Him

1. He marveled at Him. (Only 2 times. Other in Mark 6:6 over unbelief)
2. Impressed by faith and the authority concept.
3. He saw Christ's nature better than Jewish leaders and even disciples!
4. Notice Christ does not deny faith in Israel; just the greater faith here!
5. We don't know how this faith developed: Can imagine.

Conclusion: 3 views - all true. Last most important, all others secondary.

