

Lessons from 3 Centurions  
(Mark 15:39)

Introduction:

1. The statement recorded in Mark 15:39 was made in connection with the Lord's death.
2. The Gospel writers tell us about some of the people who were present on that sad occasion.
  - a. Several women are listed in vs.40.
  - b. According to vs.39, a centurion was there.
3. A centurion was an officer in the Roman army, a commander of 100 soldiers.
4. In the New Testament we read about a number of centurions as well as the things they did.
5. In our lesson we are concentrating on several important lessons we can learn from 3 of the centurions that we read about in the Bible.
6. Since Wednesday is Veterans Day, today is a good time for this study.

Discussion:

- I. WE LEARN FROM A CENTURION IN LUKE 7 THAT JESUS HAS ALL AUTHORITY
  - A. After His resurrection Jesus claimed to have all authority (Matthew 28:18).
  - B. During His ministry Jesus demonstrated His authority in many ways.
    1. One way was through His miracles (John 3:2).
    2. Many of the Lord's miracles involved healing.
  - C. In Luke 7:1-10 we read about the occasion when Jesus healed a centurion's servant in Capernaum.
    1. According to vs.1-2, this centurion's servant was very sick.
    2. We learn from vs.3-5 that the centurion made a request through the Jewish elders for Jesus to heal his servant.
    3. Luke showed in vs.6-8 that the centurion sent another message as Jesus approached the house -- he acknowledged the Lord's authority.
    4. Jesus responded in vs.9-10 by commending the man's faith and healing His servant.
  - D. Jesus certainly has all authority, and we are to submit to it (Colossians 3:17).
- II. WE LEARN FROM A CENTURION IN MARK 15 THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
  - A. During His ministry many people identified Jesus as God's Son, including:
    1. Peter (Matthew 16:16)
    2. Nathanael (John 1:49)
    3. Martha (John 11:27).
  - B. In Mark 15:39, the centurion who was present when Jesus was crucified identified Him as *"the Son of God."*
  - C. This man confirmed to Pilate in vs.44-45 that Jesus had died.
  - D. There was no doubt in this man's mind that Jesus was God's Son.
  - E. Testimony such as this, as well as other evidence, leads us to reach the same conclusion about the Lord's identity -- our salvation is at stake (John 3:16).
- III. WE LEARN FROM A CENTURION IN ACTS 10 THAT JESUS SAVES GENTILES
  - A. In this chapter we read about the conversion of Cornelius and his household.
  - B. Luke began in vs.1-6 by showing how Cornelius was instructed to send for Simon Peter who would tell him what he should do.
  - C. Peter's message is recorded in vs.34-43.
  - D. We learn from vs.44-48 that Peter and those who accompanied him were convinced that the Lord wants Gentiles to be saved, and he commanded Cornelius and his household to *"be baptized in the name of the Lord."*
  - E. The Lord's plan of salvation is for everyone (Galatians 3:26-28).

Conclusion:

1. As we read about various centurions in the Bible we can learn some important lessons.
2. Questions: Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Have you been baptized in His name? Are you submitting to His authority?