

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Luke 7:1-10

Sunday, April 3, 2016

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What are some things we learn about these Jewish elders from this incident?

They respected a Roman centurion as one who had built their synagogue, and they considered him worthy of their earnestly pleading for Jesus to heal his servant. They respected Jesus as a teacher and healer, or they would never have gone to see Jesus: they would have been like other leaders who hated and wanted to kill Jesus. They seemed to be good religious leaders. They would have been pleased when Jesus healed the servant and amazed at how Jesus did it. They would have had much to consider.

2. What are some things we learn about the Roman centurion from this incident?

The Roman centurion was humble and did not consider himself worthy for Jesus to come into his home. He had no racial or religious prejudice against the Jews. He was probably a God-fearing Gentile, because he built the Jews a synagogue. He had won the respect, if not the love, of the Jewish elders. He had good friends who would go to Jesus to help him. He seemed to be a good man who was concerned for others and especially concerned about his servant’s health even though he felt unworthy to bother Jesus. He was a man of great faith, of greater faith than any others Jesus knew among the Jews.

3. What are some things we learn about Jesus from this incident?

Jesus was willing to do what the respectful Jewish leaders asked of Him. Jesus responded in a positive way when these leaders interceded for someone who was not a Jew, but a Roman soldier. Jesus was willing to walk someplace to heal a servant of someone else. Jesus was able to heal the servant from a distance with a word, and did so. Jesus was amazed and applauded the faith of this good Roman soldier, who was not a Jew, but who believed in Him, His authority, and His power.

4. What are some things we learn about interceding and praying for others from this incident?

When we pray for someone or intercede for someone, we can give God the Father and Jesus good reasons for answering our prayers. We can tell God how much good they have done for us and others. We can tell God how they have shown their love for God and belief in God by their words and actions. We can tell God about how they will be able to do so much more to help others if they are healed or their needs are met.

5. Can you think of someone who does good that needs your prayers? How can this lesson help you pray for them? Take time today to pray for them.

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